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Sharon wins the first battle in libel suit

From Jane Rosen in New York
ISRAELI former Defence Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon, yesterday won the first test of his \$50 million libel suit against Time magazine. After a two-month hearing in the Federal Court here, the jury decided that Time had defamed Mr Sharon in an article about the 1982 massacre of Palestinian refugees in Beirut.

The jury said the disputed article suggested that Mr Sharon "consciously intended" to allow Lebanese Phalangist forces to carry out the massacre. The jurors must still decide whether the gist of the article was false and whether Time knew that and published it anyway.

Mr Sharon, now Israel's Minister of Industry and Commerce, made no statement about yesterday's decision. The jury said the disputed article suggested that Mr Sharon "consciously intended" to allow Lebanese Phalangist forces to carry out the massacre. The jurors must still decide whether the gist of the article was false and whether Time knew that and published it anyway.

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BR threatens legal action to counter 'harassment' stoppage

Railmen warn of strike chaos

By Penny Chorlton
Widespread chaos is expected on the railways today as more than 5,000 railmen take part in an official 24-hour strike and others join unofficially despite a BR threat of legal action.

The official strike has been called by the National Union of Railwaymen and Aslef, the drivers' union in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire areas because of alleged harassment of men blacking coal trains.

But last night guards at Watford were among the first to inform BR that they intended to take unofficial action.

Nacods halted talks with NCB. An attack on taxi carrying miners, page 2. Court exiles ousted miners' chief, back page.

Staff are expected to walk out from stations all over the country. Earlier, as union leaders met in London, BR announced that it would take action under the Trade Union Act 1984, which removes civil immunity from strikes called without prior secret ballots.

Union leaders were still discussing whether to call off the strike when the BR message was delivered. Within 15 minutes they announced that the strike would go ahead as planned.

It has argued that the coal strike has cost 200 million in lost revenue because coal has been transported by road and it believes that at least £50 million of lost revenue can be attributed to the blacking by railmen.

BR said it had issued a statement yesterday because the unions had spent two days talking without reaching a decision. The time had come for action.

"The threatened strike is totally unjustified and if it goes ahead it will only further undermine customer confidence and worsen BR's revenue," said the statement.

It denied harassment and victimisation and said it had investigated all such claims. "If the strike does go ahead the board will be collecting evidence of loss of business to assess whether to claim compensation from the unions," it added.

BR stressed that it would continue to move coal. The statement added that staff who refused to handle coal would be dealt with "firmly but fairly".

Mr John Peake, BR's managing director, personnel, later denied the move was provocative.

But union leaders said they were angry that the legal warning had not been raised by the board earlier. Mr Knapp said it displayed the "sort of ham-fisted way they are dealing with this matter."

A joint statement by the Railway Union Federation said: "The failure of British Rail to recognise the totally unwarranted level of intimidation indicates a decision at some level to provoke a confrontation. Our members must and will receive the protection of union membership."



RAYMOND WILLIAMS, a senior defence ministry civil servant, in Bristol yesterday, where he appeared in court on charges of providing confidential information to the Observer in return for payments. Report, page 2. Picture by Kenneth Saunders

US fights pressure to intervene on \$

From Alex Brummer in Washington
The United States is determined to resist any pressure from the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, and other European finance ministers to change its stance against intervention in the foreign exchange markets.

As confidential high-level meetings opened last night, American officials said that intervening to stem the rise of the dollar against the pound and other currencies "was like spitting in the wind."

The West German finance minister Mr Stollenberg and Mr Lawson are both expected to raise the issue of co-ordinating intervention efforts in an attempt to stem the dollar's rise.

Mr Lawson flew to Washington last night and in keeping with the tradition of "Group of Five" meetings ruled out in advance any public statements on the gathering. The group, consisting of Britain, the US, Japan, West Germany and France, is the most powerful policy-setting body in international finance.

The sharp rise in British interest rates, along with West German fears of a rise there to combat the strength of the dollar, is certain to lead to spirited exchanges on intervention strategy.

But US monetary officials offered little hope that the US policy of intervening only in "disorderly" markets would change. They argued that even coordinated intervention could not change the trend of the market.

The meeting of the Group of Five had been called before Christmas as part of efforts by the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Mr Jacques de Larosiere, to improve "surveillance" of the international economy.

The main issue is US fiscal policy and the American budget deficits—the underlying cause of high interest and the dollar's strength.

The departing US treasury secretary, Mr Donald Regan—who is to become White House chief-of-staff—will point out that the US believes that deficits are bad and that President Reagan is working on a programme to bring them down.

However, because of the Administration's inability to agree to defence and social security cuts it is effectively leaving the Republican leadership in Congress to sort matters out before the budget on February 4.

Despite assurances during Mr Reagan's re-election campaign that deficits would fall in his second term, the latest figures show a 1985 deficit of \$218 billion rising to \$250 billion by 1987 without new action to stem borrowing.

The Federal Reserve chairman Mr Paul Volcker has warned that it will need cuts of at least \$50 billion in the next financial year to persuade markets that the US is serious about bringing down the deficit.

Unless the White House shows leadership on slowing the growth of pensions and defence spending there is likely to be a messy compromise which leaves the dollar soaring.

The five ministers are also expected to look at prospects for the April meeting of the IMF World Bank, the first forum at which creditor and debtor countries will formally face each other across the table. The signs are that the Western economies will seek to avoid new concessions.

Most of the big five with the notable exception of France—are sitting on the fence over a \$3 billion three-year economic reform fund for sub-Saharan Africa. Progress on that is also likely to be stymied in Washington.

Pound puzzles Thatcher

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent
The Prime Minister said yesterday that the pound had slipped too far against the dollar, and confessed that she found the state of sterling a mystery.

Mrs Thatcher, used an interview on Woman's Hour on BBC Radio to give her fullest reaction so far to the events of the past week.

She said that the Government had changed its approach on the pound because she did not like to see the pound sliding down. "I do not like it being down at this rate," she said.

Earnings and productivity were going up, inflation was being held, investment was "an all-time record"—"and therefore with all that it is something of a mystery as to why sterling was falling," said the Prime Minister.

She was speaking as Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, left Heathrow for Washington, saying: "The pound is very steady on the foreign exchange markets today. The meeting in Washington is not about the pound."

However, Mrs Thatcher's remarks revealed the extent to which she believes the Government has been forced into an embarrassing change of policy by the slide on the international markets.

She defended vigorously the need to intervene and support higher interest rates, and predicted that the "very strange" strength of the dollar would decrease.

"You cannot go on with the dollar going up and up against other currencies, and I think most of us would like to feel that whatever happens, it will happen smoothly because uncertainty and suddenness are always very difficult for anyone in business," Mrs Thatcher said.

At Westminster, many Conservatives remained deeply concerned over sterling's standing. There was ill-disguised criticism from some backbenchers for Mr Lawson's performance in the Commons in defence of the pound.

Turn to back page, col. 3

Plan to raise benefit a cover for welfare savings

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent
Proposals to put up supplementary benefit—the poverty line payment claimed by over 4 million people—are being considered by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, as part of his review of the welfare state.

The proposal will mask plans to make substantial savings by abolishing a host of other allowances for the poor and additional supplementary benefit payments for anybody under the age of 18.

The plans—which still have to be costed before they can be presented to the Cabinet—are intended to take the steam out of any criticism that the Government does not care about the plight of the poor or the unemployed.

According to the latest Department of Health publication, Social Security Statistics 1984, which gives details of payments to different categories of claimants, the proposals would leave nearly 2 million claimants better off by 1988. But another two and a half million claimants who rely on additional allowances and single payments for special need will be worse off.

Support for a radical change in the benefits system has come from evidence submitted to Mr Tony Newton, the social security minister, in private from the Department of Health's own social security directorate.

The directorate's report calls for the abolition of all single payments to claimants on the poverty line and heating, dietary, and laundry allowances. Extra heating allowances for elderly people could be incorporated into supplementary pension payments.

The advantage of such a change for ministers is that it will simplify the supplementary benefits system, reduce staff and administration costs, and make the introduction of a computerised system much easier.

It will release about £700 million for redistribution in benefits or tax cuts. In addition, more savings will be achieved by abolishing supplementary benefit payments to those under the age of 18. By making such cuts, ministers could afford to raise the basic level of supplementary benefit by 10 per cent above inflation, or they could limit the increase to 5 per cent and

hand the rest of the cash over to Mr Lawson.

Cutting single payments would mean that claimants could no longer receive special payments for furniture, cookers, fridges, clothing, babywear, pushchairs, safety gates, fireguards, removal expenses, funerals, redecoration help when seeking and starting work and some fuel debts.

Emergency payments for floods and disasters would continue, as well as payments for exceptionally severe weather conditions.

Concealed benefits, page 1*

new rule

delegate conference fight their corner in the union.

Nottinghamshire her we haven't a change in the expulsion.

working miners in the area have been joining the new union. Derbyshire Lancashire the new union is little different since miners do not control a res. Working miners to the NUW will sign en masse.

working miners to Mr Scargill appoint the executive to new union.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Rate-cap move

LEADERS of rate-capped Labour councils yesterday agreed on a swift move to open negotiations with the Government after a six-month boycott of talks. Back page.

Police lie

AN RUC sergeant admitted in court yesterday that he lied to explain how his unit shot a man dead. Page 2.

Race attacks

THE MOST sustained and organised racial attacks in recent history are now being carried out against Asian families in the East End of London. Page 4.

Euro sting

THE MARIA is siphoning millions of pounds from EEC farm funds, say Italian Euro-MPs. Page 6.

In a new light

IT IS 150 years since Fox Talbot photographed a library window and electronic technology is poised to take over all aspects of camera operation. Futures, page 13.

Earnings ahead

EARNINGS kept well ahead of prices in the year to November, giving most employees a 3.75 per cent increase in purchasing power. Page 26.

Market moves

POUND down .0010 to \$1.1195 FT index up 19.5 to 8813.3 Dow Jones down 0.11 to 1230.88. Markets, page 22.

The weather

COLD with outbreaks of snow. Details, back page.

INSIDE

- Arts, reviews 10, 11
- Books 18
- Business & finance 20-22
- Classified advertising 14, 16, 23
- Crosswords 27, 28
- Futures 13-16, 23
- Guardian Women 19
- Home News 2-4, 28
- Letters 12
- Overseas News 6-8
- Politics 18
- Sports News 24, 25
- TV & RADIO 26
- ENTERTAINMENTS 26
- PERSONAL 27

A CONTINUING disagreement over the interpretation of an agreement between Guardian management and NGA concerning room charges in London meant that early editions of the paper were again in short supply yesterday. We apologise to readers, retailers and wholesalers.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

Austria	29 sh	Greece	100 dr
Belgium	45 fr	Holland	3.35 gld
Denmark	8.50 kr	Italy	1,500 lire
France	7.00 fr	Spain	170 pes
Germany	3.50 dm	Switzerland	5 fr

Success for Waite

By Patrick Keatley, Diplomatic Correspondent

Libyan officials have given a firm assurance to the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, Mr Terry Waite, that the four Britons held since May last year will be released by February 16.

Mr Waite said in a message to Lambeth Palace last night: "All the signs are very positive. But if these promises are not fulfilled I feel it would be very serious indeed for Anglo-Libyan relations."

The British consul in Tripoli, Mr Hugh Dunnachie, accompanied Mrs Pat Plummer when she visited her husband at his new place of detention in a house on the outskirts of the city. Mr Dunnachie also talked to the other three men and found them in good health.

Mr Waite will visit them today. He plans to leave Libya at the beginning of next week.

Freeze on aid to regions

By James Naughtie, Political Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT is expected to announce a moratorium of regional aid payments for the next three months.

A Whitehall battle has ended in victory for Mr Norman Tebbit, the trade and industry secretary, and MPs will be told of the decision at the start of today's debate on regional policy in the Commons.

It is understood that the Government will argue that no approved regional aid project will be denied assistance, simply that the budget for this financial year must not be exceeded. One official said last night that the case would be presented as an exercise in financial discipline.

However, any interruption in the flow of funds from Whitehall to regional projects will stir resentment among a significant section of the Tory back benches as well as opposition MPs, already angered by the Government's review of regional policy aimed at cutting the budget by £200 million in the next three years.

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3000	108.82	3917.52	78.57	4594.20	54.52	6542.40
4000	145.09	5223.24	102.10	6126.20	72.69	8722.80
5000	181.36	6528.96	127.62	7657.20	90.87	10904.40
6000	217.64	7834.68	153.15	9189.00	109.04	13086.00
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Soap opera spills off the screen

By Dennis Barker
Thames TV has taken the high-rating soap opera Dallas away from the BBC by agreeing to pay the American distributors' demand for nearly twice the old fee.

Worldvision Enterprises had demanded that the BBC should pay £24,500 instead of £9,000 an episode and the BBC replied last week that it would negotiate on its offer of £14,000. But the BBC was given a four-day ultimatum. Mr Michael Grade, controller of BBC1, said:

Mr Grade added his own warning: "I would not mind Hill Street Blues (at present on Channel Four) and I think that I have more friends in Hollywood than they have."

Mr Grade and Mr Sutherland argued publicly about the deal on last night's Channel Four news. Mr Grade described Thames' move as "a piece of hoodlumism... a very underhand and shabby deal."



"It's about the only thing George and I have still got in common — we both don't watch Dallas together."

HOME NEWS

Royal Commission on road safety suggested

Raise motorway limit to 80mph, say MPs

By Geoff Andrews, Transport Correspondent

A motorway speed limit of 80 miles an hour, more rigid enforcement of road safety laws, and a standing Royal Commission to coordinate and examine road safety research are recommended in a report by the all-party Commons select committee on transport published yesterday.

The committee decided to recommend the 80 mph limit for an unspecified trial period, after what the chairman, Mr Harry Cowans (Lab, Tyne Bridge), yesterday described as the "very long deliberation". In doing so they were supported by evidence from the Association of Chief Police Officers that speed limits were in a mass, unrealistic, and frequently unenforceable.

The association suggested that there was a case for an 80 mph limit on motorways. Mr Cowans said that it had been felt that giving cars a 10 mph advantage at least over other vehicles would go some way to stop convoys being built up, as had happened since last year's speed limit was raised to 70 mph. It was not feasible to suggest lowering the limit again.

The committee report states: "It is not necessary to say that all motorists



Harry Cowans—speed a reality

are incapable of driving at 80 mph because, clearly, very many are doing just that, with apparent complete safety". It adds that arguments that a 70 mph limit "means in reality up to 80 mph can be travelled with impunity, therefore 80 mph would lead to 90 mph, is not a proven fact. Such a belief has been engendered as much by the police, who see the present speed limit as unrealistic and therefore difficult to enforce, as by the motorists."

The 80 mph upper limit was being suggested for a trial period because there seemed little evidence that the speed limit on motorways was too high and because of the ac-

cident record of motorways compared to other roads.

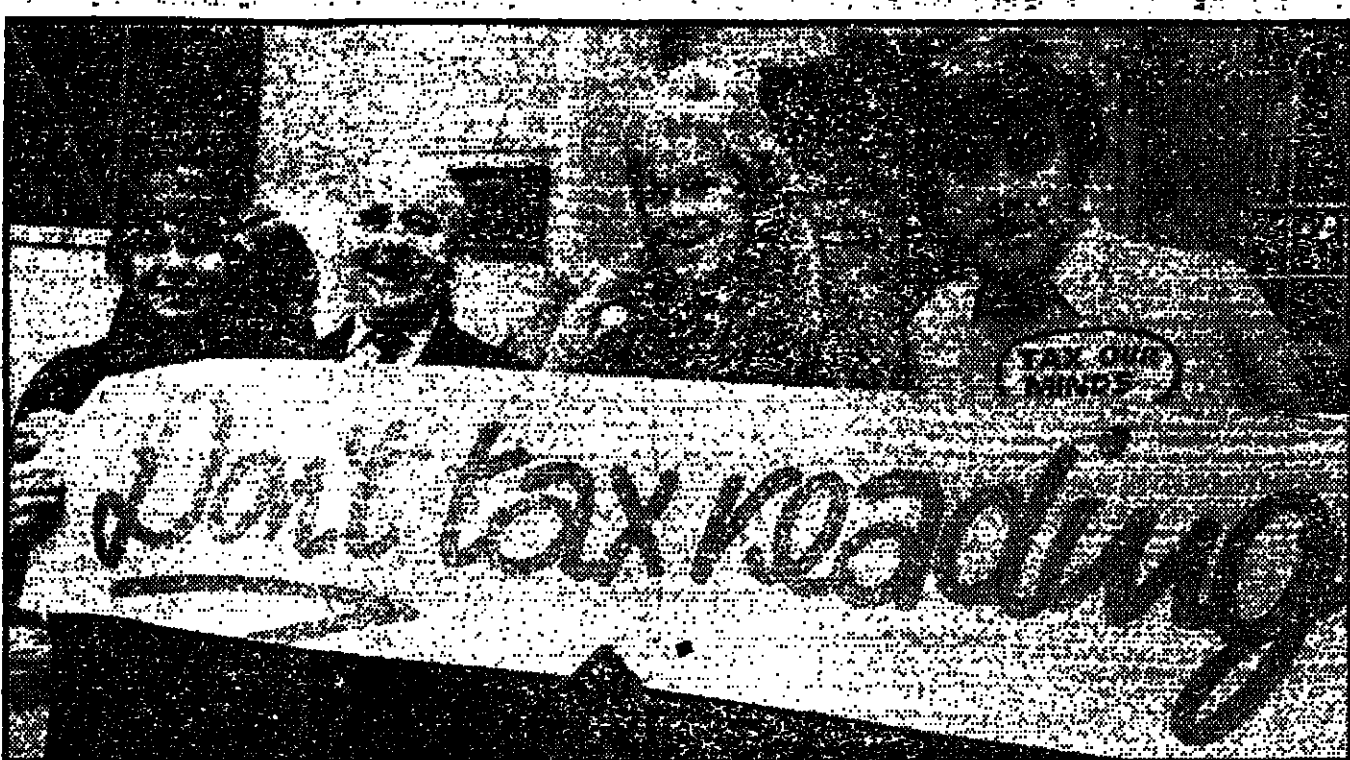
On enforcement, the committee heard evidence that the conviction rate for motorists was about one in 30,000 journeys—that convictions for careless driving were about one in 50,000 journeys and that the probability of detection in a motorway offence was one in 7,500.

On top of this, police evidence had shown that recent manpower cutbacks had particularly affected traffic policing and the majority of forces had cut their traffic establishments.

Not enough attention was being given to scientific aspects of road safety, the committee decided. It endorsed the idea put forward by another group of MPs for a Royal Commission on road safety.

The committee also recommends improvements in the driving test and motorcycle and bicycle training; a review of the threshold for drink and drive offences; better warning on the effect of some drugs on driving ability; standardised speed limiters for coaches and lorries; rear seat belts; safety modifications to cars to mitigate injuries to pedestrians; and lighting throughout all motorways.

House of Commons Transport Committee Report on Road Safety; Stationery Office, £5.55.



Author's message—Margaret Drabble, Hammond Innes, Antonia Fraser and Giles Brandreth outside the Royal Overseas League, where the rally was held. Picture by Graham Turner

Authors take hard line against VAT on books

THREE HUNDRED authors rallied in London yesterday to support the campaign against 15 per cent VAT being imposed on books, writes Nicholas de Jongh. From Sir Victor Pritchett, the president of the Society of Authors which organised the rally, to Margaret Drabble they outlined the likely consequences of the levy.

They said it would greatly limit the publication of first novels, new poetry, serious works of history, biography and scholarship. Book prices would have to rise by about 20 per cent, and this would mean that libraries, which have

already had to reduce the number of titles they buy yearly, would cut back further. The smaller publisher would find his livelihood threatened.

Ireland had repealed VAT on books. Italy had a tax of only 2 per cent, and other countries, from Norway to New Zealand, had only a nominal VAT rate.

Francis King, the novelist and critic, said that the large publisher would not produce the same kind of work as the small publisher, who might be driven out of existence by VAT.

He likened the levy to the window tax between the mid 17th and 18th centuries.

That had been a tax on light, air and view. VAT on books would be similar in effect.

Viscount Macmillan, chairman of the Macmillan publishing house, told the writers that the only way to succeed was to influence Tory MPs. "You have got to try to hit dry, hardline Tory backwoodsmen where it hurts—in their constituencies," he said. He urged authors to write to their local MPs. Two hundred MPs, including 100 Conservatives have already signed an early day motion opposing the imposition of VAT on books.

Police to report on fatal oil rig blast

By Jean Stead

Police and inspectors from the Department of Energy flew to the Phillips Petroleum Glomar Arctic II rig in the North Sea yesterday to investigate two explosions in a ballast pump which left two dead.

The explosions on Tuesday night killed the chief engineer and his assistant, both Americans, and injured two others, who were airlifted by helicopter to hospital in Aberdeen. Forty-six men were evacuated to the sister rig and 37 are still on board.

Police will prepare a report on the cause of the explosion for the fatal accident inquiry to be held in Scotland. The job of the Department of Energy team is to ensure that all safety regulations laid down under the Government's licensing system have been observed.

The dead men were Mr John Traut, aged 33, of Ventura, California, the rig's chief engineer, and his assistant, Mr Mark Paradiso, aged 23, of New Jersey.

Mr Michael Simpson, aged 27, of Leicester, is under observation in hospital, but Mr Otto Brandt, aged 28, of Houston, Texas, was discharged after treatment. Mr Simpson said yesterday: "I did not hear a blast or anything. I was knocked over by it and then could not move my right side."

Gummer urged to tighten control of Tory students

By Andrew Mounsey, Education Staff

Mr John Gummer was yesterday asked to impose tighter controls on the Federation of Conservative Students, whose rightwing militants tried to wreck last month's National Union of Students conference in Blackpool.

A report to Mr Gummer by three leading Conservative students accuses FCS leaders of "seriously irresponsible behaviour", said Tory militants' tactics were "indistinguishable from those used by Trotskyists and 'damaged the good name of the party among students'".

The pamphlet, "The Liddy Guide to Disruption of the NUS Conference", was distributed at an FCS caucus, says the report. "The pamphlet stated: 'If there is a Trotskyist disruption, it will be a disaster for the party and we must fight it'."

Another document, with official FCS markings, said: "Some will say that we are here only to disrupt. This is entirely correct."

The report is signed by Mr Chris Davies, the only Conservative on the NUS executive; Mr Mike Hall, an FCS national committee member; and Mr Simon Nundy, chairman of London Conservative Students. All three are Conservative Students' Union members, in anti-extremist pressure group within FCS.

FCS is the Conservative party's official student wing. It receives financial support from central funds and its national chairman, Mr Marc Henri Glendinning, receives a salary from the party.

The Conservative Party investigated FCS in 1981, after a leading FCS officer, Mr Robert Liddy, was charged with disrupting the party's conference.

Mr Gummer was given four recommendations: to stop FCS attending NUS conference if it intends merely to cause disruption; to ask FCS officers to account for "disruptive" behaviour; to consider whether more party control is needed of FCS officers; and to ensure greater scrutiny of party funds used by FCS.

Farmers face £130 pay claim

By Rosemary Collins, Agriculture Correspondent

Farmworkers are to demand a minimum wage of £130 for a 35-hour week after this week's government announcement that farmers' net incomes rose by 22 per cent last year.

Mr Alex Kitson, deputy general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday that other TGWU members would be asked to support the claim if the farmworkers show willingness to strike for the first time.

These would include milk tanker drivers, animal feed delivery men, and dockers. The farmworkers' minimum rate is £83.80 for a 40-hour week, but overtime and increased rates for skilled craftsmen bring the average pay to £123.

"Farmworkers have always been downtrodden and this year we will be educating them that they have got to fight to have their importance recognised," said Mr Alex Kitson. The TGWU took over the farmworkers' union two years ago.

Attempts last year to spread industrial action in support of a "substantial" pay claim were a failure, and the settlement approved by the Agricultural Wages Board was worth 4.5 per cent.



Alex Kitson

Potholers' watery success

By Martin Wainwright

A TEAM of young British potholers, led by a 16-year-old, reached the bottom of the world's most difficult caves, the underground river Nare system on the island of New Britain in Papua New Guinea.

Mr Tim Allen, a bricklayer from Malvern, drilled a final hole above a vortex of white water, leading into a sump 11000 feet below the tropical rain forest.

The 11-strong Unaimed River Expedition, launched from Sheffield last October, negotiated a chain of rapids called Apocalypse Now which defied a French party in 1980. But disappointment lay a quarter of a mile beyond where the Nare plunged into the sump at the rate of 20 tons of water per second.

The cavers reached the Nare by abseiling down a bell-shaped shaft, carrying pocket air extinguishers in case their ropes overheated. They camped underground, surrounded by fruit bats and fireflies and wearing earplugs to counter the incessant roar of the rapids.

"We wore crash helmets as well one night, after a rock fall in the shaft just by our camp," said Mr Stephen Gough, an economics teacher at a Sheffield comprehensive.

Several members of the party narrowly escaped drowning during traverses of the underground river by overhead ropes, fired across the Nare at several points by a compressed air gun.

Mr Gough said that the expedition had discovered and charted another large cave in the Nare area, and would make a full report to the Royal Geographical Society which helped to sponsor the £65,000 venture.

Ex-officer's flat burgled

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The home of a former naval commander, who worked at fleet headquarters at Northwood, outside London, during the Falklands conflict was broken into last month, it was disclosed yesterday.

The incident has been reported to West Mercia police who are investigating the matter. The burglar was seen by a neighbour last year. Her

nephew, Mr Robert Green, also worked at Northwood during the conflict.

The break-in at the flat in St Albans of Mr Peter Hurst occurred on December 20. Mr Hurst said his flat had been searched carefully but no valuables had been taken.

Hertfordshire police said they were treating the break-in as a normal crime, one of a number in the same neighbourhood recently.

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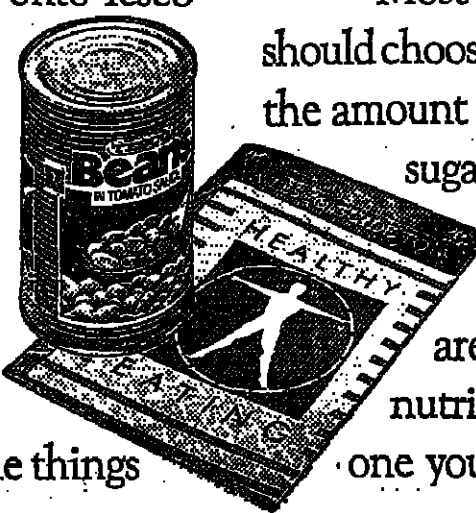
Obviously we can't go into it all here.

But in our stores you'll find our free 12 page leaflet "A Tesco Guide to Healthy Eating". It'll explain what a healthy diet is and how you achieve it.

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AVERAGE COMPOSITION	PER 140g Food serving	PER 100g (3.5oz) food
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Fat	0.7g	0.5g
Protein	7.0g	5.0g
Carbohydrate	25.2g	18.0g
Fibre	10.2g	7.3g
Added Salt	1.4g	1.0g
Added Sugar (Sucrose)	6.0g	4.3g



Falklanders give unanimous backing to new constitution

Thatcher giving islanders 'veto on negotiations'

By James Naughtie

The Prime Minister was accused last night of seeking to give the Falklanders a veto on future negotiations over the islands by unconstitutional means.

Dr David Owen, the SDP leader, wrote to Mrs Thatcher to protest against the reported intention to enshrine the islanders' right to self-determination in the new Falklands constitution by means of an Order in Council.

Dr Owen said it was quite wrong to use the procedure of an order to make such a change which effectively gave UK citizens in the islands the right of veto over the Falklands constitution by means of a future government answerable to Parliament.

He said: "We have never given a right of veto to the people of Hong Kong nor to

Leader comment, page 12

the people of Gibraltar. I believe it to be profoundly wrong in principle to give such a constitutional provision for the Falkland Islands. It is also constitutionally improper to do so in an Order in Council which is not amendable. It will be seen as slamming the door on any future negotiation with the Argentines.

The Order is also to be used to implement the decision to separate the legal and administrative arrangements relating to the Falklands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

The proposals to amend the Falklands constitution have won unanimous approval from the Falkland Island members of the Legislative Council.

Introducing the constitution to the legislature in Port Stanley, the Falklands' civil commissioner, Sir Rex Hunt, told members that Mrs Thatcher in consultation with the Foreign

Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, had carefully considered councilors' wishes and had agreed that the islanders' rights to self-determination should be enshrined in the new constitution.

This could be done by the incorporation within the constitution of a reference to Article One of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was adopted by the United Nations in 1956 and ratified by the British Government in 1976.

"The islanders' right to self-determination is now protected long into the future," said Councillor Tony Blake, who represents East and West Falklands. Elected members of the legislature feel that this move ensures that they must be consulted should the British Government open future talks with the Argentine Government on sovereignty.

The Foreign Office has also backed down on plans to disavow the Falklands from its dependencies of South Georgia and the South Sandwich group.

The islanders had expressed their fears to the Foreign Office that under previous provisions of the Falklands Act, the sovereignty of the Falklands with Argentina while retaining the Antarctic dependencies.

However, a constitutional amendment now states that there should be a commissioner for South Georgia and South Sandwich, "who shall be the officer for the time being administering the government of the Falklands Islands."

Another proposal calls for the abolition of the military commissioner's title. Since the 1982 conflict, the Commander, British Forces, has held this role and shared authority with the civil commissioner. Under the new Constitution the military commissioner's position will lapse when the present commander, Major General Peter De la Billiere, completes his 18-month tour in August.

TUC's first step to bar rebel unions

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

TUC leaders yesterday embarked on their first tentative moves towards suspending two of their largest affiliates, the electricians and the engineers, for accepting government money for ballots.

The process will be long and complicated and the final break may never come. However, at a meeting of the TUC's employment committee yesterday, union leaders decided to refer the matter to the finance and general purposes committee if the two unions move to claim money back from the Government after the February 4 deadline.

The finance and general purposes committee is the TUC's senior body and is usually given the task of admonishing unions if they flout TUC rules. Members of the employment committee adopted the policy by 12 votes to seven.

They rejected a suggestion by Mr Moss Evans (Transport Workers) and Mr David Bassett (General, Municipal and Boilermakers), by 13 votes to six, that Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, should report the two unions' disobedience to next week's meeting of the general council.

It could be some months before the TUC has to decide formally to suspend the Electricians' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

By that time this year's congress will be approaching, and with it the chance for unions generally to review their policy towards the Government's industrial relations legislation, including state help for balloting.

The electricians yesterday made a proposal to assist the TUC in its dilemma by suggesting that any money recovered from the Government after February 4 would be put on ice until after this year's congress.

Mr Eric Hammond, the union's general secretary, told the employment committee that if congress did not change its policy the electricians would at least consider the matter.

Mr Hammond's critics on the committee said afterwards, however, that he made no response when asked if he would be prepared to levy more than £200,000 so far not claimed with the TUC. They also said that he threatened to take the TUC to court if EETPU was suspended.

The question of whether to hold a special conference of congress was left in the balance and will be reviewed next month. This was largely due to the fact that insufficient replies had been received by the TUC on a survey of unions on the effects of the Government's industrial relations legislation.

Most of the 16 unions to have replied said that they have not been affected directly by the legislation. The TUC is still awaiting replies from most of the large unions, including the Transport and General Workers and the AUEW.

Transmitters plan vetoed

The BBC has been refused permission to build six new World Service radio transmitters, which it was feared would affect delicate electrical stage equipment used by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

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The last Nalco annual conference decided that council workers should not be compelled to make such declarations.

But the conference also voted for a national inquiry into the relationship between council workers and councillors.

Dr Rajit Bandaranayake, medical officer for environmental health in Bradford, confirmed that there had been a tremendous increase in cases of dysentery, with over 1,300 last year and a further 80 cases since December.

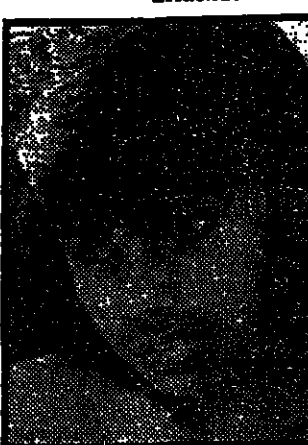
He said: "One of the more important factors must be the seasonal pattern. It has got damp weather increases it. But other environmental factors like housing and social conditions must play a part — and nutrition as well."

Bradford health authority has spent £120,000 trying to combat the disease, mainly in publishing the health risks. Schools and families are urged to take strict hygiene measures, but the disease usually sweeps through ranks of young children once it is introduced, because of difficulty in making sure they always wash their hands after using the lavatory.

East End Asians bear the brunt of growth in racist attacks



Racists leave their mark on a council house in Tower Hamlets allocated to an Asian family and white youths who attacked Mukith Miah (left and right below) scarred the 14-year-old for life with a knife



Racial harassment and assaults are on the increase in Britain. Aileen Ballantyne tells how Asians in the London borough of Tower Hamlets are living in fear

THE MOST sustained and organised racial attacks in recent history are being carried out against Asian families in the East End of London, according to information gathered by the Commission for Racial Equality.

The number of incidents throughout the country has also been growing in the past few months, according to reports made by community relations councils to the government-financed CRE. Incidents have ranged from serious, racially-motivated physical attacks to constant low-grade harassment of Asian families in their homes.

Excrement has been put through letter boxes and Asian women and children are afraid to go out of their houses because of stone-throwing and shouts of "Go Home, Paki" from large groups of white youths.

One of the worst affected areas is Tower Hamlets in east London, where over 20 per cent of the population are Asian. The Guardian has let police two serious recent incidents which illustrate the scale of the problem.

In one of these incidents, Mukith Miah, aged 14, was kicked unconscious by about 12 white youths. As he lay on the ground some of the youths climbed his back with a Stanley knife. He spent five days in hospital and has been left with a large and permanent scar.

Police arrested three youths and charged them with the attack. All three were found guilty. In an extreme case such as

this there is little difficulty in applying the law if police can track down the perpetrators. But such cases are only the most obvious manifestation of the problem.

A recent Home Office study showed that Asians were 50 times more likely to be physically attacked than whites. The figures were based only on attacks reported to police.

Ms Sedhana Ghose, one of two Asian researchers employed to live in Tower Hamlets and monitor racial harassment for ITV's TV Eye programme Racial Outlaws, being shown tonight, said she interviewed 25 Bangladeshi families in their native language. Nine out of 10 had experienced racial harassment, from bricks through windows to lighted rags put through letter boxes.

"There is a great deal of fear among such families," she said, "particularly if you knock on the door at a time when only the women and children are at home."

The second incident which the Guardian confirmed with Tower Hamlets police illustrates the fear of harassment in the Asian community and the police's own problems in dealing with the problem.

A Bengali family, already the victims of racial harassment in one part of Tower Hamlets, went to look at a council house on the Estate in Tower Hamlets, an attempt to move away from their problem. It became known in the locality that an Asian family were planning on moving in. The police arrived and the house was daubed with racist graffiti. A pair of pig's trot-

ters, inscribed with the initials "NF" were hanging over the door of the new house. Police failed in their attempts to track down the perpetrators.

Police figures show that the number of racial incidents in Tower Hamlets has increased from 230 in 1983 to 370 last year. Their figures are recorded on the basis of "victim perception." In other words, if an Asian shop is vandalised and the owner believes that they motive is racial the report goes down in the racial incidents file. Police have succeeded in confirming only 110 such incidents, however.

Arrests can be made only in confirmed incidents, and arrests were made in only 50 of the 110 confirmed incidents in Tower Hamlets.

Police critics, such as the Tower Hamlets-based Community Alliance for Police

Accountability, would argue that police are failing to meet the needs of the Asian community they serve. The problem lies in the nature of the attacks recorded by police. Seventy-six per cent of the 370 last year were recorded as common assaults.

Commander Malcolm Sullivan of Tower Hamlets police said that in these cases people were advised to take out a private prosecution. Police would give evidence for a family taking out such a prosecution, he said, but there was no record of this having happened last year.

Commander Sullivan also said that many of the attacks on Asian families were made by juveniles.

Whatever the reasons for the low rate of police arrests, it is not surprising that large sections of the Asian community now feel that the law has failed them.

Jobless scheme rule changes 'illegal'

By Malcolm Dean

The Government will almost certainly be taken to court by the Equal Opportunities Commission for its new rules governing the community programme, the country's second largest special programme for the unemployed, on the grounds that its discrimination against married women.

The changes in the rules are expected to shut out some of the 20,000 married women who are at present on the scheme, which has 130,000 places.

The commission believes that the changes, which restrict eligibility to those receiving unemployment or supplementary benefits — for which most married women would not qualify — are in breach of the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act.

Women are not excluded by the words of the new rules but indirect discrimination is also illegal under the act. Only unemployed married women with unemployed husbands or women who pay full national insurance benefit — a small minority — will be eligible under the new rules.

Under section one of the Sex Discrimination Act an agency which applies a condition equally to both sexes but which can only be complied with by a small minority of one sex is guilty of indirect sex discrimination.

Lady Platt, chairman of the commission, met Mr Peter Morrison, Minister of State at the Department of Employment, in December but was unable to persuade him to change the rules. The department wrote to the commission this week, claiming that the new rules are legal.

Over a dozen agencies or individual women applicants have written to the commission protesting against the changes. The commission will be able to select any of these cases to challenge the Government.

The case will initially go before an industrial tribunal. Appeals can be heard by the Employment Appeals Tribunal, the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords.

Community groups have accused the Government of introducing the changes to "manage the unemployment figures" and to "exclude fewer married women on the scheme means another 20,000 places for unemployed men. Most of the unemployed married women replaced would not show up on the unemployment register, since they do not receive benefits."

Mr Robert Wareing, Labour MP for Liverpool, West Derby, and one of several MPs who have taken up the issue, was told by Mr Morrison that the changes were being introduced as a cost-effective measure. In a letter to the MP, the minister said that places should be reserved "for those most in need, both of a job and of financial help."

A female civil servant, Ms Sara Holmes, successfully took the Home Office to court under the act last year and required the department to require her to work part-time in her executive post.

Euro-MP blames dysentery on poverty

By Sarah Besley

The European Commission has been asked to investigate outbreaks of dysentery in northern England. Euro-MPs claim that increasing poverty resulting from unemployment is to blame.

Bradford, in West Yorkshire, had a big increase in the number of cases reported last year, affecting in particular eight housing estates. In one of them, the post-war Holmwood estate of 2,900 dwellings, 261 cases were identified, most of them schoolchildren.

The West Yorkshire Labour Euro-MP Dr Barry Seal said yesterday that health officials in his constituency had been notified of 2,322 cases in the nine months to the end of September last year. During the whole of 1983, only 467 cases, less than a fifth of the 1984 total were reported.

The national figures for the first week of December last year were 7,303 cases — up more than a quarter from the 5,769 cases recorded in 1983.

Dr Seal says that the increase is due to poverty caused by unemployment. He has put down a motion at the European Parliament which has gone to the public health committee.

Last spring, in Scunthorpe, Humberside, there was a dysentery outbreak which affected about 400 people. Although it began in a middle to higher middle class Catholic girls school, Mr Ian Cameron, the principal environmental health officer for the area, said it was most difficult to check in poorer areas.

He said: "When it spread, it was harder to control and contain in more disadvantaged areas because of home conditions and the need for children to be sent to school, whatever state they were in because 'parents' were working."

Dr Rajit Bandaranayake, medical officer for environmental health in Bradford, confirmed that there had been a tremendous increase in cases of dysentery, with over 1,300 last year and a further 80 cases since December.

He said: "One of the more important factors must be the seasonal pattern. It has got damp weather increases it. But other environmental factors like housing and social conditions must play a part — and nutrition as well."

Freemason check puts council bar on Tories

By Michael Morris

Labour-controlled Tameside Council in Greater Manchester has become the first local authority to ban councillors from voting or sitting on committees because they failed to declare whether they are freemasons or members of other secret societies.

The three Conservative councillors concerned can still speak and vote at full council meetings, but are effectively prohibited from helping to formulate policy on committees.

They include the leader of the Conservative opposition, Mr Colin Grantham, who declines to say whether he belongs to a secret organisation such as the freemasons, because he claims that forcing councillors to sign a declaration is an infringement of personal liberty.

All of the 57 councillors were given three months to make declarations after the council changed its standing orders because of allegations of unfair influence from masons at work in town halls.

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But the conference also voted for a national inquiry into the relationship between council workers and councillors.

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School is out for hamsters

By Andrew Moncur, Education Staff

THE CLASSROOM sick in a school in London, where hamsters are kept in cages, is being closed down because of a health hazard. It is to be hoped, any great crested warty newt will soon be joining in school fire drills if new guidelines are accepted.

Arrangements for their orderly evacuation should be made in fire practice, according to a guide published yesterday by the RSPCA education department, after a lengthy survey.

It points out some of the hazards involved when animals are kept in schools. The results can be suffering and distress, not least to the children for whose benefit a variety of beasts have been brought into schools in the first place.

Teachers must be aware that animals, both mammals and invertebrates (eg. locusts) and associated materials and bedding can sometimes produce distressing allergic sensitisation," it says.

"This can take the form of running and sneezing eyes, runny nose, rashes, hay fever, asthma-like attacks. This is one reason why animals should be housed permanently in classrooms."

It suggests that regular handlers of animals should be immunised against tetanus and teachers should be aware of two common infections, ringworm and salmonella, which can be transmitted to children by mammals.

Caravans can give rise to quite different problems. Live feeding with vertebrates, including the consumption of "kiss by snakes, should not be permitted, the RSPCA says firmly.

Nurse shortage stopped hot meal for elderly

By James Lewis

Elderly hospital patients were urged yesterday to have gone without cooked breakfast on two of the coldest days of the year because there were not enough nurses on duty to serve meals.

The allegation was made by Mr Don Price, assistant director of catering at Prestwich Hospital, Manchester, and National Union of Public Employees' shop steward.

He said that sausages, beans, tinned tomatoes, potato cakes and porridge had all been thrown into the hospital wastebins yesterday and on Tuesday, and that 30 elderly and mentally ill people in Farworth ward had been served cereal instead.

Mr Price said that when he asked why hot food had been returned, he was told that because of staff shortages on the ward patients were woken up two hours later than usual and served cereal on a rota basis.

The North-west Regional Health Authority declined to comment yesterday but the Conservative MP for Bury South, Mr David Sumberg, said he had been told that an internal investigation was taking place.

Mr Sumberg said patients on Fleetwood Ward were given sandwiches instead of an evening meal on Saturday, because of staff shortages.

The hospital administrator, Mr Bill Sang, said that although the hospital was suffering from financial constraints the matter was being treated as one of great concern.

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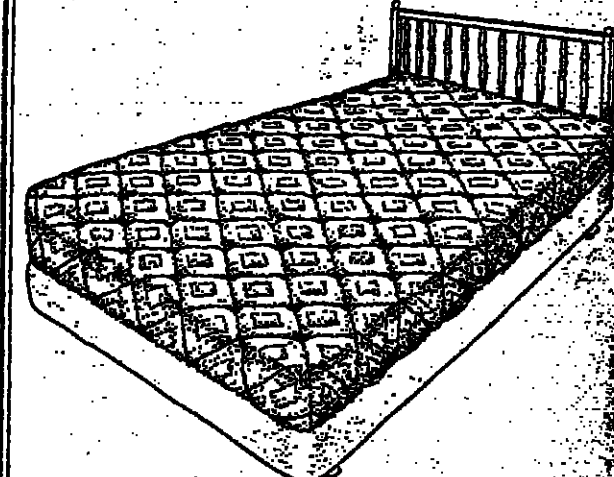
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Independence plan still on
despite communal violence

Mitterrand will fly to troubled New Caledonia

Paris: President Mitterrand said last night that he would leave today to visit the French territory of New Caledonia. He made the announcement in a television interview.

Asked if he planned to visit New Caledonia in the next few months, he said he would go there today. "I am going to support the efforts of the High Commissioner, Edgard Pisani," President Mitterrand said.

He said that Mr Pisani's plan to lead the territory to independence within a year would be complicated by a recent flare-up of violence there, but would not be totally compromised.

A state of emergency and an overnight curfew have been imposed in the territory, which lies to the east of Australia, to check violence following last week's rioting by white settlers and the death of a militant leader of the Melanesian Kanaks who are seeking immediate independence.

Mr Pisani was sent from Paris last month to devise a new formula for New Caledonia's future. He has proposed a referendum there next July, and independence in 1988.

Mr Mitterrand also raised the possibility of a referendum in France on the future of New Caledonia, saying that this would be in accordance with the French Constitution.

Settlers and black militants traded death threats and violence in New Caledonia yesterday. The atmosphere remained

tense as graffiti, both for and against independence, appeared on walls in Noumea, the capital.

A pig's head with a rose in one ear, symbolic of the French Government, was dumped by settlers outside the High Commission. A paper stuck to the head bore the name of Mr Pisani. "Pisani assassin," said one slogan.

Owners of hotels, bars, and clubs led protests yesterday against the curfew, which has left Noumea like a ghost town at night.

"We will be ruined if the curfew is not lifted," Mr Pierre Lombard, president of the Union of Restaurants and Hotels of Noumea, said.

The aim of the curfew, from 9 pm to 6 am, is to check the violence sparked by the death last week of a white youth and of Mr Eloi Machoro, a leader of the Kanaks.

The settlers, who are in a majority among the territory's 145,000 population, claim that Mr Pisani has not been tough enough against the Kanaks.

Settler farmers reported harassment by young militant Kanaks. The death toll in violence in the territory reached 19 last Saturday.

Following the killing of Mr Machoro and an aide there have been no apparent new moves to get independence talks started again. Both sides are now pledged to take an even tougher stand over the French plan to hold a referendum.

How Japanese pay for economic growth

From Robert Whyment in Tokyo

Japan's rise to economic superpower status in the past two decades has astounded the world, but a government report says the quality of life has suffered in the headlong pursuit of economic growth.

A report compiled by the Ministry of Construction confirms what Japan's business rivals have long suspected: that it has won an unfair edge by concentrating resources on developing industry at the cost of public amenities.

The report admits that the level of social infrastructure lags far behind that of advanced Western countries. Only three in ten Japanese homes are connected to a sewerage system, compared to seven out of ten in the United States. In Britain, 97 per cent of homes have sewerage facilities.

Londoners have fifteen times more parkland to enjoy than Tokyo residents while Washington citizens have more than twenty times the park space.

Half Japan's roads have no pavements, says the report, and the country has a lower proportion of motorways and a higher ratio of narrow roads than advanced Western countries.

Most conspicuous of all, Japan lags far behind its Western trade competitors in housing stock. One-tenth of the population lives in sub-standard housing, the report says, and floor space per house is much less than in all other

advanced countries. In a survey by the construction Ministry, 46 per cent of households were dissatisfied with their housing, and 30 per cent were discontented about the lack of amenities near their homes.

While the average size of a house, or flat, has risen to 86 square metres, the ministry notes an "astonishing" growth in recent years of tiny homes with a floor space of 30 square metres or less. According to government figures, a small house in a Tokyo suburb — an hour's commuting distance from the centre — costs an average of \$155,000, beyond the reach of all but higher income groups.

Examining the reasons for Japan's inferior housing and

social infrastructure, the Construction Ministry report states that "during the years of the nation's high economic growth, the emphasis was on accumulating private capital assets, which resulted in a decrease in financial resources for social capital stock".

The report holds out little hope of any great improvement in the quality of life for Japanese because of the Government's current policy of restricting public works spending to reduce the national debt.

As a result, the report says, "it is feared that the level of social development will lag even further behind private capital asset development".

Noting that Japan will have the largest ratio of elderly people in its population by the

start of the next century, the report urges that the next 20 years be used to develop housing and social amenities like parks and decent pavements.

The Construction Ministry echoes the thinking of many in the ruling party who oppose Nakasone, in his policy of curbing public spending. "A country which builds up huge trade surpluses should be capable of improving the people's living standards," they argue.

The Construction Ministry recommends one way Japan could defuse overseas criticism of its huge trade surpluses — by stimulating the domestic economy with a programme of developing housing and social services.

China to end quotas

Peking: The state will no longer fix mandatory quotas on grain, cotton, and most other farm products, a rural expert said yesterday, in detailing one of China's most sweeping reforms.

The abolition of mandatory crop purchases was announced on December 31. The Prime Minister, Zhao Ziyang, has called it the biggest agricultural reform since the commune system was dismantled in 1979.

Yesterday's announcement by Mr Du Runsheng, the director of the China Rural Development and Research Centre, revealed how the new system will work for China's 800 million rural population. He said that peasants would negotiate targets with state commerce departments and then sign contracts to produce the agreed quantities. Surplus produce could be sold on the open market.

The state will set protective prices and buy any surplus if market prices fall below production costs, the official Xinhua news agency quoted Mr Du as explaining.

Peasants can set up co-operatives to make contracts with buyers, he said.

The quota system was one of the last vestiges of the collectivised introduced in the 1950s by Chairman Mao.

The People's Daily said on December 31 that the change in the purchasing system was "a great historic task of historic importance".

"In the future, the countryside will produce what the market requires. By doing so, peasants will have more freedom of management, while the state uses economic means to regulate supply and demand," the paper said.

The agricultural bank reported yesterday that 25.5 million peasant households have switched to specialised farming and services, 14 per cent of all rural households. "We'll help more peasants to specialise, expand production, and try to guide them to produce according to market demands," Xinhua quoted a bank official as saying.

Extortion arrests

Tokyo: Police said yesterday they had arrested a couple in Tokyo on charges of trying to extort 100 million yen (\$360,000) from Sanyo Brewery with threats of poisoning its beer.

Meanwhile, an extortion gang that has eluded police since last March claimed in a letter received by a local newspaper yesterday that it would keep trying until it collected a total of 1.3 billion yen (\$45 million). So far, no money has been reported paid to it, despite its placing poisoned sweets on shop shelves last October.

Peru murders

SIXTEEN People have died in a fresh round of political violence in Peru, official reports said yesterday. Judicial authorities said they found nine bodies in Las Vegas, 25 miles to the north-east. Hooded gunmen killed two Indian peasants in Pucallpa, 100 miles to the north, they said.

Church to go

EAST GERMANY will blow up a Lutheran church at the Berlin Wall to improve border crossings, it was announced yesterday. The neo-Gothic Church of Reconciliation was built in 1894 to seat 1,060 worshippers.

Rebels escape

ANTI-Marxist rebels who bayoneted to death two British in Mozambique on Sunday escaped to South Africa, the Maputo newspaper Noticias said yesterday.

Royal tour

THE Prince and Princess of Wales are to visit the state of Victoria in Australia during October and November, 1985, to mark its 150th anniversary. They will also visit Canberra.

Penalty confirmed

A CRIMINAL Court of Appeal in Khartoum has confirmed the death sentence passed on a Muslim convicted of heresy and opposition to implementation of Islamic law in Sudan, the court president disclosed yesterday.

Mubarak visit

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt arrived in Athens yesterday for a two-day official visit which Greek officials said underlined the two countries' success in improving their relations.

Aid to Sudan

The past week was a busy one for the Sudanese government as it sought to secure international aid for its war-torn country.

Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, is expected to respond favourably to an emergency request for aid from the anti-Phnom Penh coalition government of Kampuchea.

The appeal for food, clothing, and medical supplies was brought to London by Mr Son Soubert on behalf of the Prime Minister, Mr Son Sam.

Mr Son Soubert said that the dry season offensive by the Vietnamese forces, which still continues, is proving much fiercer than in past years.

He added: "They have attacked six out of the eight main population centres which our resistance forces have been administering. More than 30,000 civilians have had to flee over the frontier into Thailand to save their lives and are being treated as displaced persons until it is safe for them to return home."

Mr Son Soubert said after his talks that he was reasonably confident that Britain will agree to increase the quantities of supplies.

Mr Son Soubert said it was the fifth winter season in succession that the Vietnamese army had mounted an offensive against the guerrilla forces and the civilian centres in north-west Kampuchea which are loyal to the coalition government.

He said: "This time they chose the sixth anniversary of their capture of Phnom Penh, on January 7, to mount an unprecedented attack on Ampil, where we have been operating full civilian services of every kind. They are still occupying it, but we do not consider it lost."



Mother Teresa of Calcutta, holding a well-wisher's baby, beams with delight in Hong Kong yesterday after being given a former army building for use as a home for destitutes.

Sikh high priest shot in Amritsar

From Ajay Bose in New Delhi

Mr Kirpal Singh, high priest of the Sikh faith and custodian of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, was injured yesterday in a shooting which broke a three-month calm in the troubled Punjab.

Mr Singh was shot in the head, chest, and leg by three gunmen on a motorcycle as he was returning from a religious ceremony in a village in Amritsar district. He is in hospital, and is said to be out of danger.

Two of the priest's aides were also wounded in the attack, which is suspected to be the work of Sikh extremists. Reacting sharply to the attempted murder, the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday described it as a "dastardly act".

"Violence will not be tolerated in a democratic society," he said, in a message to the high priest to wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr Gandhi has sent his top personal aide, Mr Arun Singh, to Ludhiana to assess the situation. Several senior officials of the Punjab government have also gone there.

The attempt on Mr Singh's life has been condemned by prominent Sikh leaders, including President Zail Singh and the head priest of the Golden Temple, Sahib Singh.

The attack on Mr Singh is seen as a warning by terrorists to Sikh religious leaders not to give in to attempts by Mr Gandhi's Government to woo them and to resolve the three-year-old Punjab crisis.

The Prime Minister had con-

stituted a three-member panel shortly after his election victory to evolve an acceptable solution to the Punjab problem which would possibly include the release of moderate Sikh leaders arrested during the last summer.

Although Mr Kirpal Singh was known as a hawk in the Sikh religious hierarchy, and had refused to condemn the assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi last October, it is believed that he had been approached by the Government for reconciliation.

Officials here fear that renewed terrorist violence in the Punjab may set back attempts to solve the crisis in the state, where intensive combing operations by the army in the past six months have obviously failed to destroy the extremist network.

Indian troops have killed about 50 Pakistani soldiers over the past six months in the disputed Siachen glacier region of North-east Kashmir, an Indian general was quoted as saying yesterday.

Lieutenant-General M. L. Chibber, commander-in-chief of the army's northern command, said that three Indian soldiers were killed in the clashes, and 27 injured in avalanches. He said that Indian troops had repulsed several attempts by Pakistani "invaders" to capture the 20,000-foot-high glacier.

Both India and Pakistan have reported occasional clashes in the region, but General Chibber is the first high-ranking army officer to report casualties.

Coastguard repel band of pirates

SINGAPORE: The Philippine coastguard foiled an attempt by pirates to board a cruise liner carrying 260 passengers, mostly Australians, the captain of the vessel said yesterday.

Captain Malcolm Anderson, a Briton, said four men on an outrigger canoe tried to clamber aboard the 8,475-ton Coral Princess as it entered Cebu harbour in the central Philippines at dawn on Tuesday. They fled after one of their three outriggers was fired on by the coastguard and did not succeed in getting on board.

The coastguard said earlier that the pirates were swarming aboard the liner at the mouth of the Mactan Channel when a patrol spotted them.

The Hong Kong-registered ship, which cruises mainly in South-east Asia, was slowing down when the incident occurred, he said.

Some of the 180 crew and passengers spotted the pirate outrigger before the coastguard came on the scene, the captain said.

"There was no alarm among the passengers who took it all in their stride," he added. "The men probably wanted to steal anything they could get their hands on."

The Singapore government chartered the vessel earlier this month for a four-day cruise. It was carrying 350 tourists and 100 crew members.

The appeal for food, clothing, and medical supplies was brought to London by Mr Son Soubert on behalf of the Prime Minister, Mr Son Sam.

Mr Son Soubert said that the dry season offensive by the Vietnamese forces, which still continues, is proving much fiercer than in past

Peking shows hesitation about Vietnam attacks

By John Gittings

China showed signs yesterday of hesitation about how to deal with the latest attacks by the Vietnamese Army on Peking's Kampuchean clients, as fresh fighting flared on the Sino-Vietnamese border.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Chinese forces had given "due punishment" to Vietnamese troops who were said to have crossed the border at Laoshan in Yunnan province, the scene of large-scale clashes last spring.

But the Chinese went ahead with an exchange of prisoners on the coastal highway near the Vietnamese town of Dong Dang, releasing 15 soldiers in return for a much larger number of Chinese personnel and equipment. Peking claimed that the soldiers carried out "illegal activities" but was still prepared to release them.

The Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, will this

month visit Singapore, an ASEAN member, and the Kampuchean question will be discussed again. Last week the ASEAN foreign ministers claimed that "Vietnam" was seeking an outright military victory on the border.

But the apparently permanent removal of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front from its base at Ampil must prompt further thinking in Peking and among the ASEAN countries about the political future of the coalition government which they have sponsored.

The official New China News Agency said yesterday that, in the first 10 days of 1985, Vietnamese troops fired more than 20,000 shells into the Laoshan area of Malaya County, and had made more than 30 ground-attacks in three weeks.

Kampuchea food appeal

By Patrick Keatley, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, is expected to respond favourably to an emergency request for aid from the anti-Phnom Penh coalition government of Kampuchea.

The appeal for food, clothing, and medical supplies was brought to London by Mr Son Soubert on behalf of the Prime Minister, Mr Son Sam.

Mr Son Soubert said that the dry season offensive by the Vietnamese forces, which still continues, is proving much fiercer than in past

years. He added: "They have attacked six out of the eight main population centres which our resistance forces have been administering. More than 30,000 civilians have had to flee over the frontier into Thailand to save their lives and are being treated as displaced persons until it is safe for them to return home."

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Extortion arrests

Tokyo: Police said yesterday they had arrested a couple in Tokyo on charges of trying to extort 100 million yen (\$360,000) from Sanyo Brewery with threats of poisoning its beer.

Meanwhile, an extortion gang that has eluded police since last March claimed in a letter received by a local newspaper yesterday that it would keep trying until it collected a total of 1.3 billion yen (\$45 million). So far, no money has been reported paid to it, despite its placing poisoned sweets on shop shelves last October.

Peru murders

SIXTEEN People have died in a fresh round of political violence in Peru, official reports said yesterday. Judicial authorities said they found nine bodies in Las Vegas, 25 miles to the north-east. Hooded gunmen killed two Indian peasants in Pucallpa, 100 miles to the north, they said.

Church to go

EAST GERMANY will blow up a Lutheran church at the Berlin Wall to improve border crossings, it was announced yesterday. The neo-Gothic Church of Reconciliation was built in 1894 to seat 1,060 worshippers.

Rebels escape

ANTI-Marxist rebels who bayoneted to death two British in Mozambique on Sunday escaped to South Africa, the Maputo newspaper Noticias said yesterday.

Royal tour

THE Prince and Princess of Wales are to visit the state of Victoria in Australia during October and November, 1985, to mark its 150th anniversary. They will also visit Canberra.

Penalty confirmed

A CRIMINAL Court of Appeal in Khartoum has confirmed the death sentence passed on a Muslim convicted of heresy and opposition to implementation of Islamic law in Sudan, the court president disclosed yesterday.

Mubarak visit

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt arrived in Athens yesterday for a two-day official visit which Greek officials said underlined the two countries' success in improving their relations.

Aid to Sudan

The past week was a busy one for the Sudanese government as it sought to secure international aid for its war-torn country.

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PLIGHT OF SIKHS IN INDIA WHY NO INQUIRY INTO MASS KILLINGS?

- Any attempt to ascertain the exact number of people killed in Delhi will be futile, but it can safely be assumed that 5,000 persons had lost their lives. (Economic and Political Weekly, 8 December 1984).
- A fact finding team jointly organised by the People's Union for Democratic Rights (PUDR) and the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCIL) in the course of investigations from November 1 to November 10, has come to the conclusion that the attacks on members of the Sikh community in Delhi and its suburbs were the outcome of a well organised plan involving both important politicians of Congress (I) and authorities in the Delhi administration. (From a joint report by PUDR and PUCIL — two of India's most respected Hindu-led civil rights organisations. The report names more than 200 people, including 4 Congress (I) MPs actively involved in the killings).
- Delhi violence... was well planned and well organised. It would have burst forth even if Indira Gandhi had been alive. (Economic and Political Weekly, 8 December 1984).
- "Victims speak of mobs led by the notoriously unruly Youth Congress activists armed with voters lists from which Sikh homes and businesses could be identified. How did kerosene materialise so efficiently? Why did the police declare open season on Sikh shops...?" (Sunday Telegraph, 11 November 1984).
- "Congress Party activists, including some Indian MPs were seen to be actively inciting the mob to kill Sikhs." (BBC 'File on Four', November 21 1984).
- "Hardly any soldiers or police were to be seen in the streets of the capital." (Guardian, 3 November 1984).
- Many people complained that, in some cases, the police were not merely hanging back, but giving active support. (Times 5 November 1984).

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SETTING NEW STANDARDS

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Budget solution key to progress

From our own Correspondent in Strasbourg

The EEC will be unable to make political progress, or to develop new policies, until its budget dispute is resolved, the Italian Foreign Minister, Mr Giulio Andreotti, said yesterday.

Speaking to the European Parliament as the new president of the Council of Ministers, Mr Andreotti called for an end to "excessive and sometimes sterile controversies" between the governments of the 10 member states.

The Community is running on makeshift month by month financing, based on 1984 levels. This is because Parliament last month rejected a council draft budget for 1985, on the basis that it would only cover 10 months of spending commitments.

The Italian strategy for breaking this impasse, as outlined by Mr Andreotti, is in two parts. First, it will try to involve Parliament more closely in the budget-fixing process, to assuage MEPs' fears that their powers are being eroded. Second, the presidency will strive for inter-governmental agreement to bring forward by a couple of months the increase in VAT contributions planned for next year, to plug the spending gap for 1985.

In the longer term, Italian support for closer European integration was underlined in the Andreotti speech. No effort would be spared, he promised, to seek agreement by June on a date for an inter-governmental conference for negotiating a new treaty on European unity.

Mr Andreotti said unemployment was the central economic problem to be resolved.

Sicilian MEP demands an inquiry into alleged frauds

Mafia 'taking millions out of EEC farm fund'

From Derek Browne in Strasbourg

The Mafia is deeply involved in farm fund rip-offs costing the EEC millions of pounds a year, according to Italian Euro-MPs.

Mr Pancrazio de Pasquale, a Communist member from Sicily, wants an EEC inquiry into the frauds. He claimed yesterday that the Mafia had penetrated Italian national and regional government, and was creaming off billions of lira from Community funds.

"It is quite clear from recent trials in Italy that the Mafia is involved," he said. "There are five trials going on at the moment, and each one involves projects funded by the Community. There has been collaboration by the authorities in Sicily, and the Mafia's hand in this is clear."

The inquiry call by Mr de Pasquale and colleagues sparked a brisk blaze of Mafia allegations. The Tory MEP Mr James Provan, claimed that there were three members of the last Parliament itself with Mafia connections, and that at least one member of the present Parliament was present.

Another Conservative, Mr Bob Battersby, recalled that a top official of the EEC Court of Auditors, Mr Michael Murphy, had gone to Sicily some 18 months ago to investigate farm fund accounts. His visit was cut short when he was knocked down by a motorcyclist in Palermo and had both legs broken.

Mr Battersby estimated that at least 10 per cent of the £300 million of production aid in Italy was going to fraudulent claimants.

The Labour leader, Mrs Barbara Castle said: "The European Commission should mount a forceful campaign to root out the Mafia thugs behind these frauds and bring them to justice."

According to Mr de Pasquale, organised frauds affect virtually all sectors of the Common Agricultural Policy, as well as regional fund spending in Italy. He described yesterday how wine producers in Sicily and elsewhere doctored their output to qualify for extra aid, and falsified production figures.

The Commission has its own inspectorate in the olive oil sector, and is aiding a aerial survey of the Italian landscape to find out exactly how many olive groves there are.

Mr William French Smith, said yesterday that cooperation with Italy had "dramatically increased," and that arrests in the United States had reduced many underworld crime gangs to "secondary leadership."

But the Italian Interior Minister, Mr Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, cautioned: "The Government has had a series of considerable successes. But this doesn't mean that the Mafia can be considered defeated."

They were speaking at a news conference at the start of a two-day meeting in Rome of the joint US-Italian working group on organised crime.



SYMPATHISERS gather outside the Hamburg courtroom where 14 Hell's Angels, including two Britons, went on trial yesterday, writes Anna Tomlinson in Bonn.

The trial was suspended because of procedural irregularities last November. The members of the Hamburg Hell's Angels chapter, which has been banned by the West German Interior Ministry, are accused of belonging to a criminal organisation, a charge normally levelled only against politically-active groups.

They are also charged with robbery, blackmail, rape, indecent assault, racketeering and living off prostitution. Police said they found weapons and drugs when group members were arrested in Hamburg.

The two Britons appearing in court were named as Michael Tony Brown, aged 29, from London, and his brother, Andrew Roman Brown, aged 28, from Boston, Lincolnshire.

Pershing protest fails

Bonn: The West German Parliament's all-party defence committee yesterday narrowly defeated an opposition motion urging the United States to halt all exercises involving Pershing II missiles pending an investigation into an accident involving one of them last Friday.

Mr Alfred Biehle (Christian Democrat), the committee chairman, told a news conference that he used his casting vote to defeat the motion from the opposition Social Democrats and the Greens party, and said further deployment of the medium-range missile would not be affected by the accident.

Three US soldiers were killed and 16 injured in the accident at a US army base near Heilbronn.

Mr Biehle said the cause of the accident was still unknown but a panel of specialists was investigating the incident. He added that the Pershing II system remained fully operational.

The Pentagon has cited static electricity or a fault in the crane lifting the missile as possible causes of the fire in the rocket engine.

A committee member, Mr Erwin Horn, speaking for the Social Democrats, said the Pershing II system was not yet fully developed and its deployment had been premature. He said his party would not allow the series of accidents involving the missile to be brushed under the carpet and would carry the matter in Parliament.

He said last Friday's incident was the fourth involving a Pershing II in one year.

Mr Biehle also said the Defence Minister, Mr Manfred Werner had told the committee that Bonn would press for withdrawal from West Germany of all Atomic Demolition Munitions, known as backpack nuclear mines, at a Nato meeting in March.

West Germany has decided in principle to join the US project to set up a permanently manned space station in the 1990s, a government official said yesterday.

But the Research Minister, Mr Heins Riesenhuber, also said the Government would reserve the right to withdraw from the programme.

US army convoys rolled along the autobahn yesterday carrying troops and equipment to the United States to their first European winter exercise in five years.

Hesse state police in Wiesbaden said thousands of soldiers were transported to the Gieseler-Felds region.—Reuter/AP.

Clash of evidence at Torun trial

Torun, Poland: Police witnesses at the trial of four Polish security policemen accused in the murder of Father Popieluszko gave conflicting testimony yesterday about plans to curb the priest's activities.

Josef Barczynski, an officer at Warsaw police headquarters, told Torun provincial court that one defendant, Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, suggested at a meeting on October 3 that Father Popieluszko should be thrown from a moving train to intimidate him.

But Barczynski's superior, Lieutenant-Colonel Leszek Wojski, who also attended the meeting, said: "I didn't hear any statement about anyone being thrown out of a train."

Piotrowski and Lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski and Leszek Pekala are accused of kidnapping and murdering the priest. Their superior, Colonel Adam Pieluska, is charged with aiding and abetting them. All four face possible death sentences.

Wojski told the court that the October 9 meeting at Piotrowski's office did not include a discussion of how to curb the priest's activities.

His evidence contradicted that of Barczynski, who quoted Piotrowski as saying: "Actions undertaken up to now to curb the harmful activities of Popieluszko have not achieved results." The Interior Minister, General Czeslaw Kiszczak, has insisted major reforms in the Polish police apparatus following the killing of Father Popieluszko. Polish diplomats said: "We must have more discipline and greater party control in the Interior Ministry, and to ensure that its policies are in line with those of General Jaruzelski." —one Polish official.—Reuter/AP.

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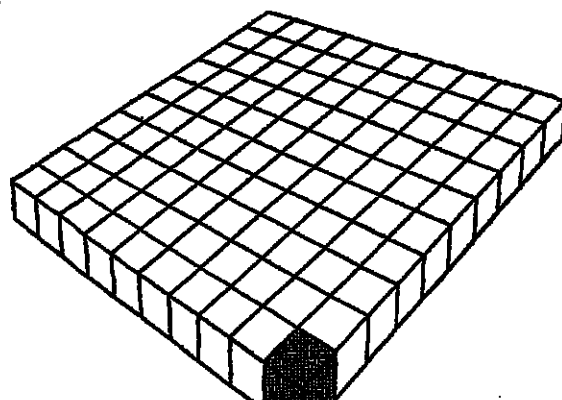
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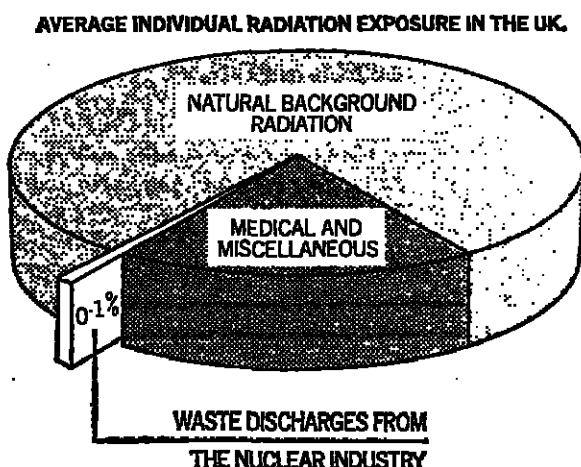
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For further information write to: Information Services, BNFL, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS.

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US keeps secret of arms find

Washington: The US Defense Department refused yesterday to dispute a report that Soviet-made weapons recovered during the invasion of Grenada had been turned over to the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr Michael Burch, the Pentagon's spokesman, refused to single out the CIA by name or say how many of the recovered Soviet rifles and accompanying ammunition had been released by the Defense Department.

"Some of it was transferred to other Government agencies," Mr Burch said. "But I can only speak for the Defense Department."

Mr Burch was asked about the arms recovered from Grenada following a report by CBS television, stating that the CIA had acquired most of the nearly 10,000 rifles and 5.5 million rounds of ammunition stored on the island to help arm US-backed guerrillas in Nicaragua and Afghanistan.

Since the weapons are Soviet-made, they have the added attraction of not being traceable to the US, CBS added.

Mrs Patti Volz, a spokeswoman for the CIA, said that the agency would not comment on the report. She did not, however, say that Congress has prohibited any kind of funding or aid to the contra guerrillas fighting the leftist Nicaraguan government. "We are certainly adhering to that policy."

Asked whether any of the arms had been sent to the guerrillas fighting Soviet troops in Afghanistan, she again declined comment.

Peruvians find more graves

Ayacucho, Peru: Three more common graves containing the bodies of 11 civilians were found yesterday in Peru's guerrilla warfare zone, raising to 40 the number of dead discovered in the Andean mountain area in the past 24 hours. The bodies, many with hands tied behind their backs and with bullet wounds and burns, were found in a shallow graves about 30 miles from Ayacucho, which the Pope is scheduled to visit on February 3.—AP.

Security forces stepped up their presence in the streets of Kingston yesterday as angry mobs set up roadblocks in demonstrations against a petrol price increase which have left up to seven people dead and several injured.

Kingston and other towns remained paralysed as schools, offices, and other businesses stayed closed.

Brazilians promised a new social deal

From Jan Rocha in Brasilia

Brazilians were promised a new republic where national security would mean food, health, education, and housing for all rather than political repression, in a speech yesterday by the President-elect, Mr Tancredino Neves.

"I have come to carry out urgent and courageous political, social, and economic reforms indispensable to the wellbeing of the people," Mr Neves said. The President-elect promised that his victory in an electoral college of 636 voters, would be Brazil's last indirect election.

"The first task of my government will be to organise institutional reform. We must seek a new constitution, said Mr Neves, who is also a lawyer and former prime minister. But the new constitution, he said, was the responsibility not just of jurists, wise men and politicians, but of the entire population.

His other priority, he said, was the economic situation. "The inflation reflects the chaos of the economy. We will face up to it from the first day."

Mr Neves promised that the fight against inflation would not mean recession because his government's economic policy would be subordinated to the social duty of creating jobs.

"While there is a single person in this country without work, without a roof over his head, or illiterate, then all prosperity will be false," he said.

"We can make Brazil into a great country. Let us do so." At least 38 people were killed when a mudslide swept through a shantytown in the Brazilian capital, Brasilia, and the final death toll could be higher, officials said yesterday. The mudslide, caused by several days of heavy rain, struck Victoria before dawn, and entire families were believed to have been killed in their sleep.

Washington may send Salvador new gunships

San Salvador: The United States is considering supplying advanced helicopter gunships to El Salvador to help the Government in its fight against leftwing rebels, US officials said yesterday.

The US State Department was reviewing a request from the Salvadoran army for four Hughes 500 helicopters fitted with guns capable of firing 6,000 rounds a minute.

Last month the United States supplied the Salvadoran Government with two C-47 aircraft equipped with 50-calibre machine-guns.

The human rights office of the Roman Catholic Church said this showed the Government was seeking a purely military solution to the conflict.

Referring to the request for helicopters, a senior US official said: "Mobile firepower is the key to fighting a guerrilla war."

The army has artillery, tanks and armoured cars and is backed by at least 24 ground-

attack jets and other aircraft. Military experts say the army's advanced helicopter gunships are offset by the rebels' flexibility and political motivation, and by terrain that favours the guerrillas.

The C-47, known as an "airborne fire support platform," is a military version of the popular Douglas DC-3 airliner adapted for counter-insurgency.

The army Chief of Staff, Colonel Adolfo Blandon, said the C-47s had produced good results since they were delivered last month. They were used in fighting last week, he said.

Much of the fighting has taken place in densely populated areas, and US officials said last year that Washington was reluctant to supply El Salvador with powerful gunships because of the possibility of civilian casualties.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in five years of civil war and human rights organisations say most of them were civilians.—Reuter.

Seven die in Jamaica riots

From Vincent Tulloch in Kingston

Security forces stepped up their presence in the streets of Kingston yesterday as angry mobs set up roadblocks in demonstrations against a petrol price increase which have left up to seven people dead and several injured.

Kingston and other towns remained paralysed as schools, offices, and other businesses stayed closed.

Some flights at Kingston's international airport were cancelled with passengers still stranded after missing flights on Tuesday. The unrest began after the price of petrol went up by about 40p to about £2, the first such increase since January, 1984.

across the city, blocking all main roads with burning tyres, fallen trees, rubbish and old cars.

Police confirmed three of the deaths yesterday, but other reports put the toll at six on Tuesday with a 12-year-old boy, being shot in the eastern end of the city yesterday morning.

The demonstrations sparked anger in political circles with the Conservative Prime Minister, Mr Edward Seaga, appealing for calm and telling Parliament that the demonstrations were political in origin. He said that gains in the economy were emerging following "programmes put in place to readjust the economic structure of the country."

and leader of the People's National Party, Mr Michael Manley, said that price increases were unjustified in view of commitments made by a senior government member that there would be no petrol price rise.

However, the Government claimed that the increases were necessary because of the huge devaluation in the Jamaican dollar against the US dollar.

The tiny Communist Workers' Party of Jamaica acknowledged its participation in the demonstrations by saying that it had helped to maintain roadblocks throughout the city. There have been no reports of injuries to visitors in tourist resorts which have been relatively calm.

JPR 1/15/85

the Government that the increases were necessary because of the inflation in the Jamaican pound against the US dollar.

Communist Workers of Jamaica acknowledged participation in the demonstrations by saying that they had been ordered to maintain order throughout the city.

There have been no reports of violence against visitors in tourist areas and the police have been retrained.



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A die-hard liberal behind the Magnum image



The Terry Coleman interview

TO CLARIDGE, that notorious hotel of the wild West End, to see Clint Eastwood, lean, 6ft 4in hero of Westerns, anti-hero of Dirty Harry cop movies, and beyond that an actor of real and most undoubted presence. Now and again he says a few words, and everyone listens. Most often he keeps his silence, and everyone listens to that too. That's class.

In his suite he sat back real easy, though with his back — no doubt by instinct to the wall — and his hands hanging loosely by his hips, and I asked him about his brief scene in The Outlaw Josey Wales when, after God knows what hardship and slaughter, he just touches with cupped hands the hair of his wife's leading lady.

An Eastwood silence followed. Then he said, "I just think the gesture is — it's his — it's a — it's a — an expressive way of affection... It's just like there's no reason why a big man has to be any less tender than a small man, or a truck driver any less than an accountant, because, sometimes, men who are fairly sure of themselves don't mind showing tenderness."

This came in the middle of our conversation. I put it first to show that to do justice to Mr Eastwood's way of speaking you need a kind of musical notation. The timing counts for a lot. And when he says Yes (and he is very good at one word answers) it won't do to transcribe it as Yes, but Yeah won't do either. It's almost Yep, but with the "p" barely sounded. Uh huh is, however, a fair transcription of one of his most characteristic remarks.

I began by saying that Eastwood was a very English name, and asking how far he could trace his family back. Never does it, he said; perhaps afraid of what he'd find, but all he knew was his father was English-Scott, and his mother Irish.

And Clint? That was very American, wasn't it? He said his real name was Clinton, and that had been his father's name too.

Not by any chance after the Clinton who was the British commander-in-chief who succeeded in losing the American war of independence? "Uh huh. I'm a reincarnation."

What about his young days? There was a scene in a film of his called Honkytonk Man where the hero, played by himself, says that his early days were the happiest of his life, even though there were spent in emigrant shacks, drifting round with Okies, refugees from the Oklahoma dustbowl: hadn't his own early life been something like that?

"Well, I didn't live in quite so bleak a situation as this fella did. He was kinda drifting around, a starving musician, songwriter."

But hard times? "They were some hard times. I had enough to eat. I was very young though. I didn't — My parents were those who had to worry about it all. I know my mother once told me that they, she and my father, gave up eating on some occasions. But most times I remember them getting by. OK. They were in California. His father got a job at a gas station where Sunset Boulevard meets Highway 1 down by the ocean. He still has a picture of his father there, in a pump jockey outfit."

As for himself, well, he says, smiling, his distant High Plains smile he never was much out of work until he became an actor. Before that he always managed to scrounge up something. But no, he didn't remember these hard times with any bitterness, because he was not much of a man for the past. It just wasn't too good a time.

"Nice understatement?" I suggested. But then Mr Eastwood was saying nothing at all and slowly eating an apple. This economy of word and gesture is very congenial to an Englishman like me, but I did remind him, after a while, that there was silence.

"That," he said, after consideration, "is the ultimate understatement. (Laughter.) The laughter came from an audience consisting of a studio executive, a studio publicity girl, and a reporter from the New York Times wangled in by Columbia-EMI-Warner to sit and listen."

While Mr Eastwood was in his apple-eating and therefore slightly laconic phase, I mentioned to him John Wayne. (Eastwood: "He played some Westerns also"), and the American Dream ("Uh, huh"). Then we turned briefly to the Cherokee Strip, which had belonged to the Indians, was then bought by the US government, and in 1893 was the scene of a land-race, when would-be settlers lined up at the start and then rode hell for leather to stake a claim.

It's a sequence out of a hundred Westerns, only in that particular race Mr Eastwood, this his great-grandfather took a lot of the riders, he said, would get a piece of land, and stake it out, and sell it right away. They were in it for the ride, and for the profit, and all of them more commercial than he. He said his great-grandfather was in it for.

This brought us back again to Honkytonk Man, where in one sequence an old man surveys the scene of that race, and sees it has now all turned to a dustbowl. I think it is time to describe this film, which I have mentioned before. It is not a Western. It is set in the 1930s, when this singer, a man in his forties, is driving east, back to Nashville, Tennessee, where he has an invitation to audition at the Grand Ole Opry. The man is a natural singer, but breaks down coughing in the middle of his audition. He has come all that way just to fail.

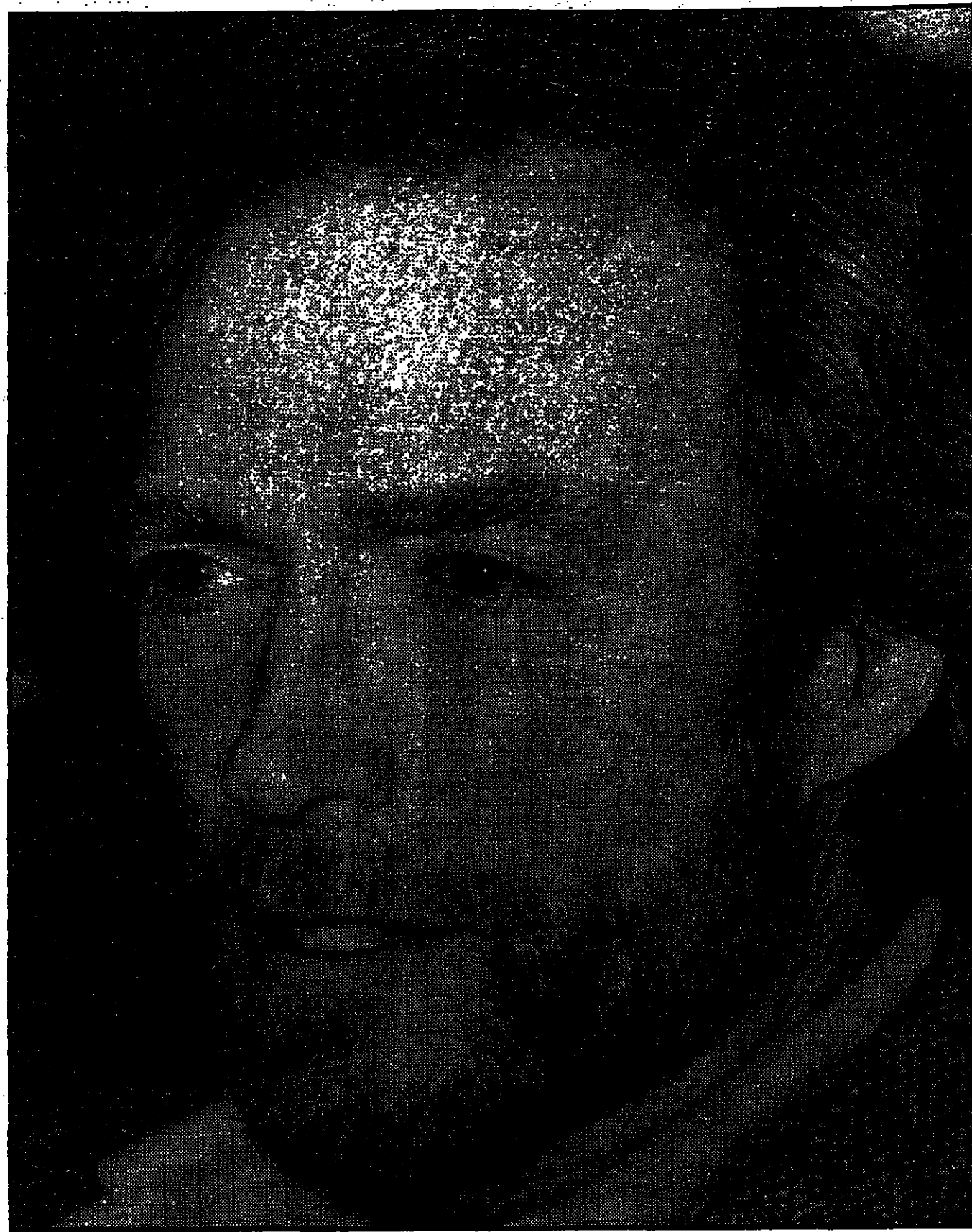
But some recording company people hear him, and offer him a flat 20 dollars a song to record for them, which he does for two days, between coughing bouts, and then dies. But he has at least left his records behind. The scenes of the man's last two days are at times pretty unbearable to watch. It is a classic American tragedy.

"Thank you," Mr Eastwood. It was only the second of his 28 films in which he died, and as he puts it, the film died with him. It was not one of his box-office hits. The fans prefer him to live. He too was moved by the film as he made it. "Yep. It's like he's waited just too long. He's a consumptive, and it's catching up to him."

This was a film which he both starred in and directed, and I asked how much of a free hand he had with it. "Complete."

Nobody from the studio had suggested it might hit more commercial if he put in such and such a scene? (Silence.) "Several people made the suggestion that he maybe didn't have to die at the end."

My God. I talked a bit about his latest release, a sexual thriller called Tightrope, and a film which needed a Hitchcock to direct it, but didn't get one. Mr Eastwood plays a cop (not Dirty Harry) who is himself familiar with the girls of New Orleans cat-



Clint Eastwood: picture by Kenneth Saunders

houses, and finds himself investigating a series of murders of these girls. It is complex. At some points it is conceivable that the cop himself may be the murderer.

What's interesting about this film, when you talk to Mr Eastwood, is how emphatically he condemns the sexual predilections of the character he plays as decadent. He is not, after all, emphatic about much. It is not his style.

But surely it was fantasy, I said; and if it were decadent, at least stylishly decadent? Mr Eastwood would have none of this. "He's sort of willing to accept whatever the style of the moment is, with the girls. He allows himself to get into a decadent situation, but don't think he's pleased with himself... He's weak that way."

My guess is — and it is a guess on the sole evidence of a few films and an hour's conversation — that Mr Eastwood is a puritan, with all the sexual intensity that implies, as is abundantly

demonstrated in the career of the girl's hair with which I began this piece. It was at this point in the interview that he talked about tenderness, and from that we went to instinct, and he became absorbed in a consideration of the spirit and the brain.

It happened this way, I said. I believed he had one to have an edge, and that his edge was instinct. He thought he might have been paraphrasing something from the film of Josey Wales, but anyway he guessed if he did have a strong point, instinct was it.

And if you started analysing instinct it would be gone? "Yes. It's something — gut, or soul, or heart, or whatever it is, wherever you want to place it, wherever it comes from. And then he said he supposed it was the brain, and was leaning forward, cupping his hands again, this time holding in an imaginary brain.

Laughter from the audience. He was absorbed and took no notice. "There are several sections to the brain," he said. "There's the paleocortex and the neo cortex. Ancient man was just a paleocortex. And then the brain evolved and it became neo cortex, which gave him the power of analysis, and pondering different things. But still the paleocortex of the brain exists, and that's where animal instinct lies."

And he was stumped in paleocortex? "I probably didn't get any of the other. He was smiling that withdrawn High Plains smile again."

Mr Eastwood had come to London to give the Guardian lecture at the National Film Theatre. At this lecture someone from the audience had asked about his politics. I asked him again. He said people who were politically aligned, Left or Right, people who were dogmatic and hard-core, tended to be boring. They became obsessed, couldn't talk about

anything else, and were sure that anyone who disagreed with them was a fool. They could only talk to their own kind.

I said he should hear the Trotsky muttering among themselves here. "Really? Well, they enjoy themselves. I'm not opposed to variation in the world, that's for sure. I believe in people doing what they want to do, as long as they don't hurt anyone else."

That I said, was a classical nineteenth century liberal view. "Well, I'm classical liberal in that sense. I don't want to see anybody else injured."

We then got on to violent demonstrators, of whom he has been reported to disapprove. It seems like in the quest for peace people can get so rambunctious that they become killers. And it's like people in the quest for religion. In the name of God they slaughtered — which God is right, mine or yours? You're pro-life, you're a pro-lifer, but you bomb an abortion clinic, and risk killing somebody? How pro-life is that?

Last year he had been reported to have helped an attempt by some ex-convicts to go into Laos or Vietnam and free US prisoners left over from the war: what about that? "Yes. That wasn't accurate. There were some people who had approached me for help to go in and explore, and see if there were any MIAs. Missing in Action. American soldiers, that might be held there. And they claimed they had hard information, but it turned out it wasn't."

Had he helped? "Yep. I thought, during the prisoner's ministrations, I didn't think much help was being offered. These people seemed to put a case up. But I think in hindsight, which is always good to deal from, they were playing around with no information. I would have hoped that if there's such a thing as a Missing in Action person, I would have imagined that everybody wouldn't sleep very well. There's always the big lie."

We changed tack, and I reminded him that Norman Mailer had once said he (Eastwood) had the face of a man who could be a murderer or a saint. "He wrote it... I don't analyse my face. I think he meant I could play either a murderer or a saint."

I thought Mailer had meant more than that: that he had looked at Mr Eastwood, as I was at that moment looking at him, and had thought there was the face of a murderer or a saint in the eyes of the beholder. May be that quality has worked for me somewhere down the line."

Was it true that, as a director, he tended to use fewer takes than most others? "Yep, I think so. When I see the take I like, I put it in and walk away."

I said I once watched Charlie Chaplin, years ago, directing The Countess From Hong Kong. As a young man, Chaplin must have made hundreds of films in one take, or two takes, but with The Countess he was taking ten.

"Yep. Maybe he didn't know where he was going to end up. Maybe he was in his prime moment in life. I don't think it was I saw the film. Who knows what happens? A person's living all this time, he's done all this, he's got the point where people would speculate he's some sort of a genius. And right away — what better word to

ruin a person? In the early days he had to start the problem. He had the sportsman. I'm always trying to make it in one take."

Then Mr Eastwood mimed a little show. After 10 takes, he said, a film got slow and heavy. Well, he said, when he was doing Rawhide on television, he had watched a big director shooting a big feature film at MGM. The director was a stickler for a crane. There were thousands of people in the shot, and then the director called out "Bring me down." Lots of trouble. The big crane set him down. The director then walked across to a table (here Mr Eastwood reached down to the sofa table in front of him, and mimed what happened, and the crane brought a quarter of an inch. Then back up again, in the crane).

Then Mr Eastwood said, "If you're brought up on films that have to be shot within a certain budget, you learn to move right along, and you get to like it. Maybe some day in your life you don't like it. Maybe some day you want to do it 20 times. Like The Countess. From Hong Kong, I hope that doesn't happen to me."

Now I came to the question I had waited to ask. In Josey Wales there comes a moment where Mr Eastwood is cornered by four hoodlums, and invited to surrender his guns, taking them out of their holsters, real easy, and presenting them butt first. He does this, but as one hoodlum makes to take them, the guns are whipped round by a miracle — a sleight of hand — the hoodlums are dead, and Josey rides again.

"Right." Could he really do that? "Uh huh." But I wanted to know, in a matter of simple mechanical curiosity, whether for that shot he did need 10 takes, and dropped the guns nine times out of 10, or whether he could do it straight off.

Mr Eastwood looked at me real cool. "Years of playing in Rawhide (Laughter), day in day out, six days a week, you're constantly — you constantly — and after a while you get so you can kinda do it."

He said no more. The explanation was complete. And was he in fact a decent pistol shot? "Okay." I gestured across the room, suggesting a target. "We wouldn't want to hit him out," said Mr Eastwood, mistakenly assuming, I believe that I was setting up the New York Times man. (More laughter.)

No, I said, that clock face. "Sure. You bet." It was about 25 feet away, and it would have been very good pistol shot. "You bet."

He could do it with a .44 Magnum? "Oh, easy with that. It might take out the mirror behind, and make it uncomfortable for the man in the next room. (Laughter.) Take the face right off that clock."

As I was leaving, Mr Eastwood said he hoped his eating of that apple, which had admittedly been a crisp one, hadn't showed up too much on my tape. At the door, he came back with a basket of fruit that had just been delivered for him. I took a very crisp apple, and though it would no doubt have been precious to the Clint Eastwood fans still waiting in the hall outside the wild West End hotel, I kept it and ate it slowly on the way home.

Michael Billington reviews Waste at The Pit

Heart of empty hope

THE TITLE of Harley Granville Barker's *Waste*, excellently revived by the Barton at The Pit, is curiously double-edged. It refers to the devastation of a politician's career through sexual scandal. It also evokes the barrenness of a life without children, which is the theme that recurs throughout the play with grinding obsessiveness. And it is this ability to unite the personal and the political that makes this a superb play.

Barker's first achievement (and the real reason for the play's being banned in 1907) is to have put the mechanisms of politicking on to the British stage. Henry Trebell, a brilliant lawyer-politician and prime author of a bill to disestablish the Church of England and divert its surplus funds to education, is tainted with scandal when his mistress dies aborting his child.



Mark Dignam

But the heart of the play lies in the astonishing third act when members of a future Tory cabinet are seen distancing themselves from Trebell with a mixture of chicane and smugness. Trebell, offering to come clean about his private life, is blandly assured that public life is to be lived on such heroic heights; and we see a Tory backwoodsman driving a coach and horses through colleagues' lack of commitment, either to a principle or a human being. I know of no scene in British drama that captures so well the actual process of political decision-making.

Barker's play is partly an attack on the craven hypocrisy of British public life. But he is also fascinated by emotional sterility of

formance by Daniel Massey as Trebell. Mr Massey is not without mannerisms (he holds a letter in front of him as if it were a public proclamation) but he excellently conveys the sense of a public idealist suddenly awakening to the flatness and vacancy of his private life.

The production has the in-depth casting that these days only big companies can afford. Judi Dench as Amy O'Connell has exactly the right middle-aged firmness that springs from early marriage to a man wrapped up in medievalism and Irish politics. Bruce Alexander, in his one scene as her husband, brings on stage a burning, implacable commitment that makes him recognise Trebell instantly as a fellow-addict.

Tony Church plays the future Tory PM with a wonderful laid-back, sing-song irony that must have something to do with his year's of experience of the Arts Council drama panel. Mark Dignam as a backwoodsman, and Charles Kay as a political ecclesiast, exuding the odour of sanctity, are spot-on; while Maria Aitken as Trebell's self-denying sister brings home Granville Barker's theme which is that "fear of life is the beginning of all evil."

Two cavils: Barker's final scene, after what has gone before, seems almost gratuitous, and Barton (who has condoned the 1907 and 1926 texts) is wrong to say in the programme that the play has not been seen on the English stage since 1936. Leatherhead rep revived it 18 years ago.

TELEVISION

Hugh Hebert

Viktoria Comes West

SOMEONE called Harold Shaw the Napoleon of American impresarios, and he took one look at the questioning face of Viktoria Mullova and answered her fair and square: "Don't you worry about the 20 per cent, you worry about the 80 per cent," which as advice goes is more worth an agent's percentage than most.

Viktoria was 23, winner of the Tchaikovsky Prize, one of Russia's most brilliant young violinists when, during a Scandinavian tour in the summer of 1933, she dumped her Stradivarius, picked up her lover and walked into the US Embassy seeking asylum. Katya Krausova's film for Real Lives (BBC-1) covers Viktoria's first year in the West where, as it turned out, she didn't have to worry too much about the 80 per cent. With Napoleon in her corner, she got 20 concerts and \$175,000.

Defection, said one critic, is not enough, you have to have something more. Viktoria, said a TV newscaster, "is talented, pretty, and she sure can carry a tune." Whatever more she needed, she seems to have had it, and if some complained she seemed emotionless, impersonal, had to be taught to bow, smile, radiate, and generally massage the audience's heartstrings, that was attributed to the two years' deception she and her lover had practised to get out of the country in the first place.

This included devoted playing of the works composed by the musical baron of Moscow, Comrade Khrennikov; something you would only do if the thing you most wanted in the world was his thumbprint on your passport application.

Just how her companion in flight, Vakhtang Jordania, feels about it, all is left mainly to her imagination, since 10 minutes of the film was lopped to fit the slot, and much of the material about him went with it. In what's left, he looks as gleeful as a sturgeon roast of the time, pondering the fact that while Viktoria has the willow weep of the young Virginia Woolf, and has left behind only her parents and her Strad (property of the USSR), he has abandoned wife, children, and the whole Kharkov Symphony Orchestra.

One fiddle and an accompanist gets her on the road, he needs a hundred players. In Russia, he was conducting a hundred concerts a year, in America in that first year he had just two. It's what they call artistic freedom.

At 15, Viktoria was travelling Europe collecting prizes. As 16, Lee Thompson gets up at 5.30 to do his milk round, goes to school, and in the evening unloads trailers in Brixham harbour. They reckon a couple of million children now work illegally in Britain, and Brass Tacks (BBC-2) followed some of them, topping carrots, cleaning a hospital for a private contractor, earning pocket money in a hundred ways, generally keeping the cost of living down for the rest of us, and, much more often than they should, getting injured or killed in the process.

Over on Channel 4, the argument between Wynford Vaughan-Thomas and Gwyn

Williams about the history of Wales is warning up quite nicely in The Dragon Has Two Tongues. When Vaughan-Thomas has told you one thing quite firmly, Williams the Marx will break in with his different interpretation. Like those music hall men who came on crying "I say, I say, I say!" Only he is less polite, usually announcing his presence with a ringing shout of "Nonsense!" This week they were disagreeing about the Romans.

The screen is as busy as a basket of sprats. Roman soldiers stomp over hills, someone keeps throwing bits of jewellery into deep water, and the camera sweeps across the landscape endlessly, picking up distant figures that turn into the gruff sheep dog Vaughan-Thomas or the snappy little terrorist who recognises now as Williams. "There were," Williams declared on one mountain top, "people running round here in goatskins with minds like Malcolm Muggeridge."

I'm still working that out.

SHAW

Kenneth Rea

Nola Rae

NOLA RAE'S latest one-woman show explores the urge of the fool to express himself through art. Although it provides some comic set-pieces and one or two witty observations on the arts, the overall impression is one of confusion.

In a longish prologue, we see the hero an awkward figure in a bathrobe trying out teach-yourself art courses in a vain attempt to become a

dilettante. The quest for art soon takes him into a jungle of chaos where he becomes an explorer in pith helmet, treading warily through the artistic undergrowth and testing his talents.

We laugh at the fool's awkward attempts at a fairy dance, draped in a cowhide, then watch him devastated by a vampire critic, who just has time to scribble manic condemnation before the sun rises. At this point, the critic has to dash back to his sinister castle, from whence comes the morning edition. There is also a delightful sketch of a potter moulding a vase that becomes so huge, it traps him inside.

Nola Rae is a talented mime and a brilliant clown who displays a vulnerability that beautifully mirrors human weakness. But she gives herself material so thin that the scope of her ability is never seen. Nor does it help having a complicated set and numerous costume changes: every time a joke builds, there is a pause while the next scene is set up.

Since there was a director, Emil Wolf, he should have been able to tighten the whole thing up. Instead we end up with a portrait of the artist that could be bold and colourful, but which is reduced to a few tentative strokes on an otherwise empty canvas.

MANCHESTER/RADIO 3

Gerald Larner

Berio/BBC Philharmonic

THE EXCUSES for the Manchester public — which almost

unanimously decided to ignore the presence in the Free Trade Hall of one of the major events of the season — the weather and the feeling that a programme with little more than an hour's music in it, though it might well be a useful exercise for BBC Radio 3, scarcely adds up to a concert.

But this is no ordinary music. The recent work of Luciano Berio, a composer who has been making his name in the world since the 1950s, is a masterpiece of musical invention.

Listening to Verdi in anticipation of the Sinfonia is perhaps not the best way to appreciate it. Written only last year (and performed once before, in Basel), it is what Luciano Berio called an "arrangement" of Sicilian folk song. The folk material is obvious enough in the solo viola part, which has a sound somewhere between Paganini on the one hand and Stravinsky on the other, but the orchestra is curiously inattentive to it.

Although the two elements begin to coincide towards the end, the effect is not so much satisfying as disappointing, as if something like Berio's Scottish Fantasia had intruded on the event.

Still, this first British performance did give us a chance to hear the very remarkable viola playing of Aldo Parisotto, for whom Verdi was written, and it gave the BBC Philharmonic an opportunity to work closely with the composer. As the very brilliant performance of the Sinfonia confirmed, it is a partnership which works well and which could profitably be renewed.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

JPM 1985

But who controls Sir Rex?

It was Lord Hailsham, long ago, who first talked about an "elective dictatorship." It is Mrs Thatcher, this week, who has provided an ardent example of what the Lord Chancellor was talking about.

Eight thousand miles away, on Monday evening, members of the Falkland Islands' Legislative Council — to whom no opprobrium attaches — gave their "unanimous approval" to an amended Constitution for the islands which enshrines their right to self-determination. Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, told them that Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe had agreed to insert that clause in Chapter One of the Constitution of Language referring to Article One of the UN International Covenant on Human Rights. He further informed the councillors that a plan to divorce administration of the Falklands from that of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands had now been scrapped. Instead a further Constitutional amendment would give that role "to the officer for the time being administering the government of the Falkland Islands." Yet another amendment abolishes the post of military commissioner for the Falklands. The level of policy transformation (or, less politely, U-turning) implied in these matters can be gauged by reference to a recent interview in the Penguin News with Mr David Thomas, the senior Foreign Office department head lately visiting Port Stanley. The decision to sever the political links between the Falklands and the Dependencies, said Mr Thomas, on the record, stemmed from a 1982 meeting presided over by the Prime Minister. "The idea is that separate constitutions should be drawn up reflecting the actual conditions and needs of, on the one hand, the Falklands, and on the other hand the Dependencies."

And now, at a distant stroke, all is utterly changed. In London, if you please, the Foreign Office has no on the record statement whatsoever. No transcript of this revised Constitution. No explanation of what's involved. No comment. Nothing. Off the record we may perhaps expect an Order in Council in the Spring. But no final decision has been taken.

Either members of the Falklands' legislature, meeting in council, are deluded; or someone is peddling delusions closer to home. And one can't be too understanding about "communications difficulty." The Falklands lie at the end of copious telephone, radio and telex links. And Sir Rex Hunt, the Civil Commissioner, is not some ethereal, indigenous figure. He is a seconded Foreign Office diplomat. When he addresses the Legislative Council and introduces the new Constitution, he is London's man. Yet London denies all knowledge.

It is one thing for this Government — and this Prime Minister — to espouse a particular policy towards the Falklands. When Mrs Thatcher, in her Christmas message to the islands, said that "it is the wishes of the Falkland Islanders that are paramount and so it will continue to be" she was fully entitled to her personal opinion. Not a very sensible opinion, perhaps. And not one, self-evidently, that will survive her tenure in Downing Street. But there is all the difference in the world between Mrs Margaret Thatcher shooting from the lip and Foreign Office officials — without any debate or any opportunity for debate in Britain — promulgating Constitutional-amending policies which are not even available for scrutiny in London.

British policy on the Falklands is hugely expensive policy, topping \$200 million in this financial year — and with no real end in sight. We have not — for all its new democracy — established negotiating links with Argentina. We have not followed through the Prime Minister's quite specific pledge to consult the Islanders about their future. Nor have we been allowed to debate — in the House of Commons — what the options for that future might be. The history of the past two years has been one of manifest evasion, orchestrated from Downing Street, imposed on glum Foreign Office. And now, it seems, the Islanders are being given all manner of Constitutional pledges — no bill attached — which Parliament cannot be allowed to see. An Order in Council is a Government decree approved by the Privy Council. Has that approval already been given? If so when, and by whom? Or has even the Privy Council — all unheralded — yet to meet? "Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey have agreed," says Sir Rex, as though that were the end of the matter. On the contrary, it ought to be the beginning of some proper scrutiny and democratic control in this greyest of grey areas.

Countdown to local crisis

The 16 English Labour-controlled local authorities due for rate-capping in the spring are moving into the serious stages of their Russian roulette with the Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin. Up to now, their bottle has not been put to a real test. The councils have stood by their agreement not to settle on the side of individual deals with Mr Jenkin over the rate limits which he announced in December. The deadline for making representations about Mr Jenkin's proposed maximum rates for 1985-86 passed on Tuesday. None of the threatened councils, trudged through the snow to the Department's Marsham Street headquarters to seek a compromise. That much was predictable. But that was also the easy bit. Yesterday, the rate support grant settlement got Commons approval (though with some unhappiness on the Government benches). From today, the going gets hotter and swifter. Orders implementing the rate limits for the 16 will be published next Thursday and are due for parliamentary assent on February 15. The councils then aim to hold synchronised budget meetings on March 7, at which, if the outright rejectionists have their way, the phoney war will end and the real confrontation will begin.

After that, what? If the hard-liners have their way, the councils will refuse to pass legal budgets or set legal rates, on the grounds that they cannot do so without abandoning the services their communities need. They would then try to ensure that their council workers remain on full pay while the authorities await concessions from Mr Jenkin. Debt charges would go unpaid. The City would panic and put pressure on the Government to settle.

Whether it will happen that way is an altogether different question. There are at least three major stumbling blocks. First, the small matter of winning the votes on the threatened councils. In some of the hill-top authorities, Labour luxuriates in massive majorities. But there are others, notably Lambeth and the Greater London Council, where the majorities are narrow. There is a growing suspicion that some of the most uncompromising rhetoricians in these assemblies know full well that their less committed colleagues will cop out on the vital votes. It happened in Liverpool last year and it could happen again this time.

Second, the councils could find themselves tempted into negotiations about rate levels which at present remain taboo for internal political reasons. This too was what happened over Liverpool's 1984-85 budget, though the left's mythology of that event somewhat obscures the fact. As John Carvel pointed out yesterday, there is an area of slack amounting at present to 5 per cent in the Government's proposed spending plans for the rate-cap councils. For the hardest hit councils, that figure may not be enough to play with. They are talking of imposed cuts of up to four times that amount. Though the gap is large enough all the options involve real diminutions in jobs and services, it does provide an area of possible negotiation. Environment Department officials also acknowledge there could be "mistakes" in the way of their figures. In cash terms, this could put many millions of pounds back on the table. The authorities will have to move quickly, and within the next week, if they are to keep it in play, but it could be a tempting offer.

The final factor is pressure from within the Labour Party itself. When the national executive committee backed the threatened councils earlier this month it did so in the hope that the concerted stand would lead to meaningful negotiations with Mr Jenkin. Party pressure for an honourable settlement, one which combines a real Government retreat on spending levels with a recognition of the inflated political mileage in last ditch defiance, is likely to grow. An extremely tough round of English county council elections is now less than four months away and Mr Kimock will want the rates battle on the back burner for another year.

The cruise contortions

Today the Belgian government is due to review its wavering position on the installation of 48 cruise missiles after the Prime Minister, Mr Martens, refused to commit himself to the March deployment deadline when he met President Reagan in Washington on Monday. Mr Martens now finds himself in exactly the same dilemma as that faced, and consummately sidestepped, by his Dutch counterpart, Mr Lubbers, last June. He and his centre-right coalition must choose between political defeat at home and reminding the world of the latent division in Nato between the Americans and the

western Europeans. It is Mr Martens' misfortune that the passage of time has left him with much less room for manoeuvre than the Dutch.

Although the Belgian and Dutch difficulties over cruise are very similar, the nature of the game has been changed by this month's agreement between the Americans and the Russians to resume arms talks at which the Euro-missiles will be one of the main topics. Before that, Washington wanted a united Nato front in face of Soviet refusals to negotiate; now it wants a united front to bolster its position at the talks. By the same token, Moscow sought to divide Nato when it was refusing to talk so as to embarrass the Americans, and still seeks to foment division now that it is prepared to negotiate. That is why Mr Gromyko said on television at the weekend that the talks could be jeopardised if deployment continues in western Europe. He will not have been unaware of Mr Martens' appointment.

Nor was the Dutch government when it said on Friday that it would go ahead with deployment at the delayed date of November this year if present conditions remained unchanged. Last June's condition for deployment — the installation in eastern Europe of just one more Soviet SS 20 missile — has, according to Nato, been surpassed by eight. But the Dutch parliament, like the Belgian, could still decide that progress in the coming superpower talks made deployment superfluous or potentially counter-productive. The Geneva accord has revived the flagging morale of the "peace movement" in both countries and may have a similar effect in West Germany. There, six citizens have just exercised their right of going direct to court with a suit claiming that the stationing of Pershing II missiles in their country is, after one rocket missed last week, a threat to personal safety. In Belgium and the Netherlands, hostility to the missiles embraces not only the peace protesters and the opposition but also a significant part of the main Christian-Democrat component in each coalition. In addition, Mr Martens must call a general election by December 2, which is naturally uppermost in his mind. If hostility to Euro-missiles proved so strong when East-West relations were frozen, the possibility of a thaw (perverse) is more likely than anything else to revive it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Avoiding the pitfalls

Sir—Your Leader (January 13) on the need to bring the miners' strike to an end is both wise and welcome. Its text might have been: "He who divideth his own house shall inherit the wind." The nation cannot afford to think of militant miners as the enemy within, the NUM cannot afford a permanent division within its ranks.

The issue must be seen against the background of a great national disaster—the pound stands at well below half what it did against the dollar four years ago; there must be about four million unemployed; we are eating the seed corn (over £10,000,000 of oil revenue) and spending our children's heritage on current account.

Little wonder that the miners do not believe in the financial motives of the Government, particularly as it has just sold a major national asset for what the stock market believes to be half its real worth.

It does not help for the Government to say that un-economic pits must be closed. Five accountancy professors have rightly said that "there are heavy overheads which will not be saved should a pit be closed." The real question is whether the running costs exceed the value of the coal mined. A solution of the dispute might be attained if that test were applied pit by pit. But above all there must be the will for peace.—Yours faithfully, Raymond Blackburn, 50 Homefield Road, London W4.

Sir—In the light of revelations about Mr Arthur Scargill's fond boyhood memories, can we now expect a new negotiating position? When he has saved every un-economic pit from extinction, will he keep the lads out for another year until bare-fisted prize-fighting is licensed on Sunday afternoons in all Yorkshire pit villages?—Yours faithfully, Andrew Trembath, (Chairman, South Nottingham SDF), Arnold, Nottingham.

Bad sport

Sir—Lord Chalfont's letter (January 13) in reply to the launching of the Campaign for Fair Play merely serves to highlight the blinkered view that sport can somehow be separated from the society which created it, supports it and surrounds it. It may be that some superficial advances have been made in non-racial cricket and rugby, but the inescapable fact is that in South Africa the "right of the individual to freedom of choice in the practise of sport" can never be achieved until that same individual has equal rights in society at large. Supporting sports administrators can never lead to any real change—a racist society practices racist sport.—Yours sincerely, S.D. Schofield, London N17.

When Tweedledum and Tweedledee talk peace

Sir—Your report (January 13) on the comments made by Gromyko and by Shultz when interviewed on television, after the end of the talks at Geneva, makes curious reading.

Both, according to your headline, "claim Geneva victory"; each, that is, claimed that the other side had made significant concessions at Geneva to allow hope for the future of arms negotiations. Neither, it seems, claimed himself to have made significant concessions, yet that might have been a source of legitimate pride.

Let us applaud Tweedledum and Tweedledee where praise is due, and urge on them the need for public acknowledgment that the exponential arms race can only be lost, eventually, by all participants; or abandoned, precisely through "concessions."—Yours faithfully, Michael Rubinstein, 6 Raymond Buildings, London WC1.

Miscellany at large

Sir—Lady Young (January 12) no doubt assumes that those of us who fought in the war are either dead or senile and that those of us who are under fifty are ready to accept without question the Hollywood History of World War Two.

As one who spent four years as a volunteer with the Royal Navy, there is no doubt in my mind about who really won the war in Europe and would feel proud to take part in any celebration of VE day which was initiated by those Russian servicemen of my generation who were fortunate enough to survive the Nazi aggression between 1941 and 1945.

I do not owe my "freedom" to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and Twentieth Century Fox, but rather to millions of dead, anonymous Russian peasants. David Skelting, Bradford, W. Yorkshire.

Sir—Your Diarist draws attention (January 15) to the contrast between the views of Dr Owen and Mr Steel on Nicaragua. But this is only one item in a major divergence between the outlook of the Social Democrats, most of whose MPs left the Labour Party precisely because they are determined Cold Warriors, and the majority of Liberals.

At the Portsmouth byelection last year Dr Owen accused Mr Kinnock of being associated with "front organisations whose purposes are opposed to the proper defence of this country." One wonders what the numerous Liberal members of the peace movement made of that. How absolutely true was the statement made in the Guardian by Mr Jack Straw, MP, that the Social Democrats have taken up a position in the centre of the Conservative Party, and do the Liberals really belong there?—Yours faithfully, Edwin Chapman, Earley, Berkshire.

Sir—In his letter from Moscow (January 15) Lev Semak suggests, rightly in my view, that mutual disarmament is the only sensible way to proceed. Before that, however, he says Britain should dispense with her nuclear deterrent to take advantage of that wonderfully generous gesture of the Soviet Union in which it pledges not to use nuclear weapons against states who do not possess them.

We in Britain are not only concerned with nuclear attack; we are also very keen to maintain our freedom from any aggression and to have the democratic rights we enjoy today. There are splendid instances of non-nuclear states — Afghanistan, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland — which have not been victims of Soviet nuclear attack, but how free are they?

As the idea of one side leading the disarmament process seems to be so appealing, would it not be better for the side with the greatest strength to reduce first? Done that way, the Soviet Union would not really notice the loss of less than 4 per cent of its nuclear deterrent, whereas Britain would be sorely naked without 100 per cent of hers.

Or does the view of the late Soviet leader, Yuri Andropov, still apply: namely his statement made in Moscow on November 22, 1982: "Let no one expect of us unilateral disarmament. We are not naive people. We do not demand unilateral disarmament by the West."?

Surely the best hope for peace in both East and West must rest with the maintenance of deterrence and with the arms control talks about to start between the United States and the Soviet Union. May there be a true desire for accord by both sides, and may properly verifiable and last agreement be reached. That way no one will be naive and left naked. We in Britain can play our part by our commitment to Nato and the deliberations

which take place within the framework of the alliance to enable the Americans to go into the talks speaking for all Nato countries. Consideration of the British and French independent deterrents will depend on the progress of these talks, and may well be a very good sign when we reach that stage.—Yours faithfully, Ken Aldred, Peace through Nato, London SW1.

Sir—Richard Holme (Letters, January 14) is quite right. Trident, a massive unilateral increase in nuclear weapons, is absurdly expensive: £30,000 a day for 1,000 years for those who said billions difficult! But to argue only on grounds of cost is to avoid the issue of principle. What is any independent British nuclear deterrent meant to be for? Any such system is illegal, immoral, politically pointless and incredible because suicide is not a rational defence policy.

If a deputy comes to High Court judgment

Sir—You report (January 13) that a High Court injunction stopping further GLC spending on advertising against its own abolition was granted by a QC sitting as High Court judge.

It has long been established in our constitution that one of the fundamental principles guaranteeing the impartiality and independence of judges from government is their security of tenure in office. Ipsos facto, this principle cannot apply to those engaged ad hoc by the Lord Chancellor's Department to deputise as judges.

For a practitioner deputising in this way to be signed by the courts administration to hear a case in whose outcome the Government can scarcely be said to have no interest, is highly questionable in constitutional terms. Lord Hailsham owes us an explanation.—Yours faithfully, Adrian Tibbits, 2 Harcourt Buildings, London EC4.

Sir—Prof Griffith (Letters, January 9) is right to question the method of appointment of judges, and to



call for an inquiry into what is loosely described as the "system" of appointment. He gives as grounds for his submission that two judges have recently been convicted of smuggling, theft, and forgery.

The grounds are much wider in my evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services in 1977 I called for the establishment of a legal services commission to administer the legal system and to appoint and review judges. The membership of the commission, which would be appointed by an appropriate minister, would be drawn from a broad base of public

opinion and consumers of legal services, practising and academic lawyers, trade unions, civil rights organisations, consumer groups, and the police service.

There is no guarantee that such a commission would be able to spot and weed out potential villains. But the responsibility for putting judges in their positions would be shared, and be democratic, accountable, and thereby tending to make their background, experience and views less homogeneous. Jeremy McMillan, 15 Old Square, London WC2.

A COUNTRY DIARY

NORFOLK: The first sparkle of time frost bewitched us with its sudden beauty towards the end of the old year, heralding the advance of bitterly cold winds and snow from Siberia. At the fall of the moon, in the stillness of a clear night, temperatures dropped steeply inland and even near the coast, so that not only pools and ditches, but broads and parts of our tidal rivers became sheeted with ice. Scandinavia experienced the sudden grip of winter only a little earlier and precipitated the departure of vast numbers of waterfowl, many of which have been hurtling into Norfolk from across the North

Sea in the past week. Wild swans assemble on our broads in a spectacular numbers every winter, but in the present emergency the total of these refugees has increased almost beyond belief, while wigeon have been arriving in great force than for many years past. Immigration by fieldfares and redwings was on a small scale in the autumn, so that the bumper crop of berries everywhere remained almost untouched up to Christmas; but now these birds have been flocking in to strip the hawthorn and hollies of their offerings. On hearing that Finnish Lapland was suffering from 50 degrees of frost, my thoughts turned to

the likely reaction of waxwings, native to the forests of that region. These attractive berry eaters have flocked into eastern England in considerable numbers from time to time when driven by extreme cold and hunger. I was therefore not altogether surprised when about 50 of these elegant, crested visitors turned up to feast on the fruits of guelder-rose in a fern near my home on January 5. Whether a notable invasion is imminent remains to be seen. The suddenness of winter's clamp-down in the Baltic may have taken them by surprise and killed many of them before they could set out for refuge in the west. ... E. A. ELLIS.

How Thatcherism makes the doctor's life more difficult

Sir—We find your Leader "The dilemma on dialysis" (January 9) quite out of touch with reality.

If, as you state, some 2,500 people require renal dialysis and there are facilities to treat only 1,400, who should decide when and whom to treat?

The Hippocratic Oath, which you mention, states: "I will use my power to help the sick to the best of my ability and judgment; I will abstain from harming or wronging any man by it." There is no mention of taking into account the age of the patient, the patient's dependants or other, purely medical, conditions.

Hippocrates also states in his Aphorisms, Section VI, No 38: "It is better not to treat those who have internal cancers since, if treated, they die quickly, but if not treated they last a long time." So much for Hippocrates!

Quality of life is of prime importance, and should take precedence over other factors such as age, dependants, or other medical conditions. All patients who need dialysis should be able to obtain it, but, unfortunately, the Government does not see fit to give the NHS the finances to accomplish this aim.

As long as there is inadequate funding in the health service, doctors will have to "play St. Peter" and, if you can suggest any more better qualified, we would welcome your advice. M. E. Sinclair, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford.

Sir—As a very junior doctor working in a busy tertiary department, I am responsible daily for the sort of life-or-death decisions referred to by Meg Taylor (Letters, January 14).

Without even the very superficial knowledge of the patient usually available to the medical registrar, we had to decide in a few seconds whether or not to resuscitate patients, people who had collapsed, been brought to hospital by ambulance. Similar, often more distressing, decisions face me in the paediatric department where prospects for survival and morbidity are even less straightforward.

To some extent my experience made these decisions easier, but as a slightly older and much more cynical doctor soon to enter general practice, I would gladly lay such decisions on the shoulders of the likes of Meg Taylor. Better I am sick to death of hearing the responsibility for this society's failure to "devote adequate resources to the health service" of apportioning to patients because the treatment they deserve isn't available to them, of making excuses for hospital and surgery waiting times and inadequate transport facilities. The case of Mr Sage is not unique. Rather it is symptomatic of a society that has got its priorities wrong. (Dr) Mark Butt, London SW20.

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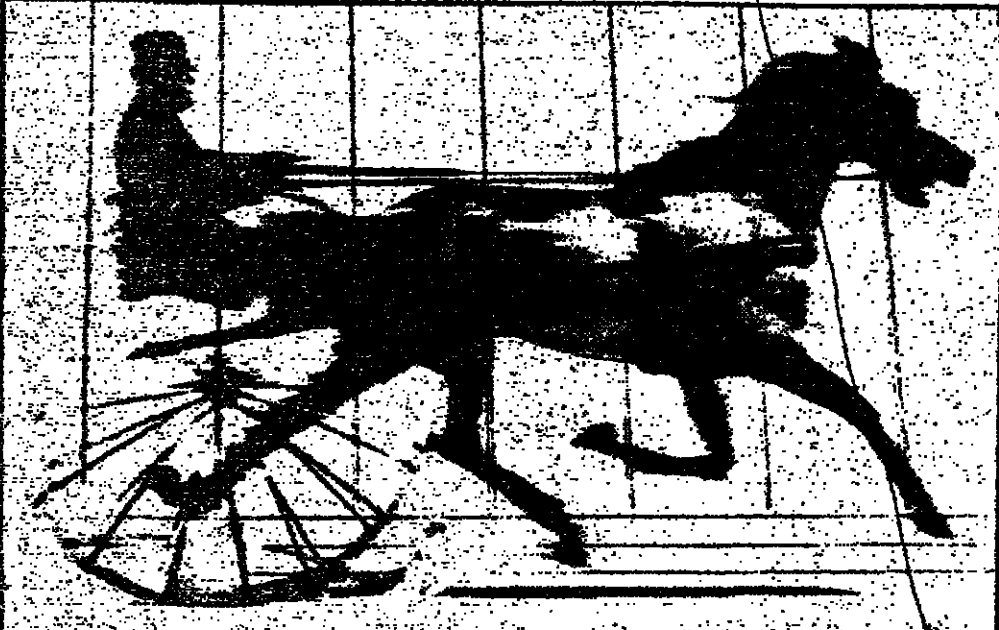
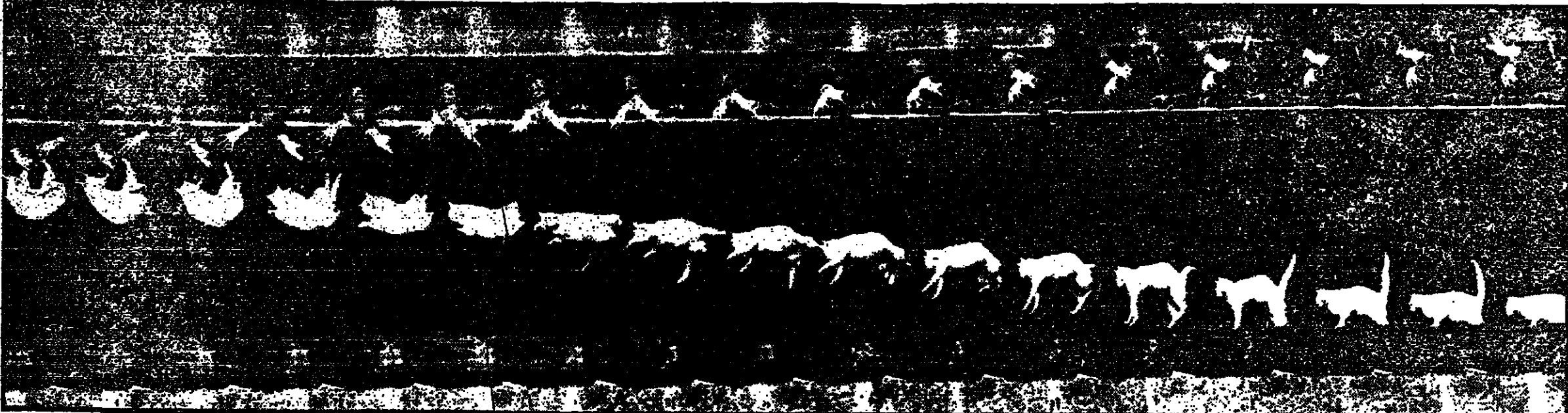
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FUTURES

MICRO GUARDIAN-PLUS THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Top: Etienne-Jules Marey's controversial photograph (1894) of a falling cat who manages to land on his paws. Above left: Maybridge's classic picture (1878) which proved that a trotting horse at one point lifts all four feet off the ground. Above right: the Great September Comet of 1882 taken by Sir David Gill. It was this picture which sparked off the mapping of the heavens by photography. Right: the last photograph of the thylacine or Tasmanian tiger, a marsupial now thought to be extinct - a frame from a film made about 1935. Left: W. C. Röntgen's radiogram of his wife's hand - the first photographic record of X-rays through living flesh, taken in 1895.

It is 150 years since Fox Talbot photographed a library window. Jon Darius looks at the future of the image

The truth in black and white

PHOTOGRAPHY, arguably the most important medium for recording and communicating information since the invention of printing, fast approaches its sesquicentenary. But can this technology with its brilliant past stake any claims to a promising future?

Photography does not have so precise a date of birth as, say, X-rays. Nicéphore Niepce did manage to obtain a photograph of sorts around 1826 by coating a pewter plate with a mildly light-sensitive tar and exposing it in a camera obscura for the better part of a day. The man who properly deserves to be called the inventor of photography, however, was that paragon among Victorian gentleman-scientists, William Henry Fox Talbot.

Spurred by his inadequacy as a draftsman, he began experimenting with the light-sensitive salt silver chloride and in 1835 produced a negative photograph of a library window at Lacock Abbey. Historians may debate whether Niepce's earlier efforts of Daguerre's later process should bear the palm,

but many will argue that this first paper negative, made 150 years ago and now preserved in the Science Museum, truly marks the invention of photography.

Was it McLuhan who said that no subject can truly look to its future until it has become aware of its history? Photography can certainly claim to be a case in point. The historical dimension has lately come to the fore in a way that owes little to any anniversary celebrations. Old photographs are bought and sold on the one hand as peepholes into the past and by such artists of the camera as Julia Margaret Cameron, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Weston. On the other, even unattributed photographs may serve as mementoes of a vanished technology, from silvery daguerreotypes to lustrous albumen prints.

Museums and galleries devoted to the evolution of the camera and its products are growing in number and stature. To such traditional guardians of the photographic past as the National Centre of Photography run by the Royal

Photographic Society in Bath and the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, we have seen the addition of the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television opened in Bradford in June 1983 under the aegis of the Science Museum, itself in possession of an excellent photographic collection. The National Museum of Photography will shortly inherit the contents of the Kodak Museum in Harrow, closed last month.

In the last year, several paired books and exhibitions illustrating photographic history were launched: British and French calotypes in Houston and Chicago with its printed counterpart Paper and Light by R. R. Brettell; early studies of motion by Marey and contemporaries in Beaune summarised in La Chronophotographie by M. Frizot; and my own Beyond Vision covering historic scientific photographs published by Oxford University Press and first shown at the Science Museum. (It opened yesterday at the National Museum of Photography in Bradford.) As we shall see, scientific photography by

virtue of its perpetual efforts to burst technological confines is really the touchstone for the issue of photography's future.

Certain trends are obvious and irresistible. Cinematography must acknowledge the encroachment of video in its tape and laser disc formats. Holography is exploited increasingly for commercial as well as artistic purposes. The microchip is paving the way for ever more "intelligent" cameras like the Canon T70. Camera of the Year in 1984, in which miniature electronic circuitry permits a finely adjustable balance between automatic and manual control without sacrificing compact size.

The crystal ball displays one trend which could dominate the future of still photography: the growth of solid-state recording at the expense of the classic chemical emulsion. The advantages of electronic image recording with solid-state detectors over conventional means include reusability (as against the irreversible chemical record) and digital storage (as against the older analogue image). An

image stored digitally can be readily transmitted, converted into any convenient output such as a television screen and manipulated by image processing. Adjustment of contrast and colour balance, enlargement and reduction could be performed by a microcomputer.

Will electronics really supplant photochemistry? The signs might appear to point that way. Sony exhibited a prototype of the first electronic still camera, the Mavica, in 1981. There are now more than 30 companies actively concerned in the development of a camera whose "film" is not celluloid covered with a silver halide gel but a magnetically coated floppy disc.

In Sony's wake Canon and Hitachi have revealed alternative models, and three months ago at Photokina in Cologne - the pace-setting photographic world's fair - held biennially further versions were displayed by Copal, Fuji and Panasonic. Electronic technology is poised to take over all aspects of camera operation; last summer, Polaroid even

patented an electronically variable colour filter.

While electronic cameras may represent the future for commercial photography, among scientists they are very much the present. One of the historic photographs in Beyond Vision reveals the discovery of an extraterrestrial volcano imaged in eruption by a vidicon camera aboard Voyager 1. At the other extreme, a television-type system is coupled with an electron microscope to study atoms in a crystal of gold.

The classic landscape of Mars - our first picture from the surface of another planet - was recorded by the "frame" scanner of the Viking 1 lander. A new life-form encountered on the ocean floor was captured with a charge-coupled device (ccd), an array of solid-state sensors which convert light at each point of the image into electric impulses.

The flurry of electronic images notwithstanding, conventional chemical photography is far from dead. It is not a case of the dinosaur yielding

to the mammal, but of necessary coexistence. The faintest image ever recorded, also included in Beyond Vision, is a wispy shell around a distant galaxy detected not by a ccd - much vaunted by astronomers for its capacity to image extremely faint subjects - but by means of a Kodak emulsion, its contrast enhanced by the technique of photographic amplification invented by David Malin of the Anglo-Australian Observatory. At a time when electronic detectors can register the arrival of a single photon of light, Malin's photograph is no mean feat.

So for both shutterbugs with compact cameras and scientists with sophisticated apparatus, electronics is bound to infiltrate further. But electronic images are still relatively primitive in character or else restricted in application, and chemistry will not be banished by electronics for some time to come.

Jon Darius is Curator of Astronomy at the Science Museum in London. His book, Beyond Vision, was published last year by OUP.

Anthony Tucker on the dangers of a cadmium diet

Taste of danger

DEPARTMENT of Environment experts are studying, with some concern, a survey of the Walsall area which suggests that some population groups have an intake of cadmium from their food which approaches and may even exceed the internationally permitted levels. The finding conflicts with the conclusions of the national surveys undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and implies that, in areas without specific cadmium-rich industrial problems - such as Shipham in Somerset where Britain has serious and hitherto unreported environmental cadmium health hazards. The problems, if they are as serious as the Walsall study suggests, need urgent attention because the use of cadmium, in spite of voluntary controls requested by the Government three years ago, is rising.

The Walsall study, carried out for his doctorate thesis by Christopher Tennant of Aston University, was triggered by the discovery three years ago that a significant proportion of soil samples taken in the area had total cadmium concentrations greater than three milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). This is a level which has been set, broadly speaking, by the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Health Organisation, as the maximum permissible in agricultural land.

In Walsall the contamination is the result of long industrial fallout and is typical of many urban-industrial areas in the developed world. The study was carried out in detail when it was found that, in a survey of 193 homes growing a substantial proportion of their own vegetables, 42 per cent were using land with cadmium contamination that rendered it unsuitable for agricultural production. The implication was that, through direct uptake, home-grown vegetables, these families were at high risk of excessive exposure.

Health risks from chronic exposure to cadmium are kidney damage and, at low levels, increased blood pressure, with recent studies suggesting secondary effects such as blocking the uptake of essential zinc by the developing foetus. These hazards underlie existing or proposed strict controls on the industrial use of cadmium in Sweden, Denmark and, recently, Switzerland. In 1983, in its survey of cadmium in food, the Ministry of Agriculture recommended that British industry should find alternatives to cadmium. The most recent EEC Paris Commission annual report shows that the recommendation is not being implemented.

The most worrying findings of the Walsall survey are that while the assessed daily intake of cadmium in an urban control group averaged about 20 micrograms a day, which accords with MAFF findings and is well inside the internationally accepted maximum of 70 micrograms a day from all sources, the average for the families eating home grown vegetables was almost 50 micrograms a day from this source alone. Some, says the study, exceeded the 70 microgram level.

These calculations, based on sample analysis and a study of family diets in the 96 households at highest risk, remain that a substantial number of people - many retired but also many with young families - are using industrially contaminated land for agricultural purposes.

That large areas in urban-industrial complexes are already contaminated to levels which, on the basis of international recommendations, render them unfit for the production of food, is a powerful reason to accelerate national measures to reduce cadmium use and pollution.

In the Midlands, according to an earlier Aston University survey, the expected reduction of cadmium fallout because of the decline of the foundry industry has not occurred. Cadmium emissions have risen in recent years because the remaining foundries now tend to melt scrap which is itself cadmium contaminated. National use is also rising because of the importance of cadmium as a plastic stabiliser and in electronic components - not to mention disposable batteries. While other countries have imposed, or are in process of imposing, strict controls except where cadmium use is essential, Britain has done nothing.

The argument is that substitutes for many of the most important cadmium uses are not as good as cadmium itself, and that emission control is expensive. Such arguments are no longer acceptable.

Reference: Cadmium in the environment and high risk population groups. Christopher Tennant, Doctoral dissertation, University of Aston in Birmingham.

As concern grows over research into human embryos and Parliament has its say, Peter Braude explains the view from the laboratory

Looking at life with the best of intentions

RESEARCH using the early human conceptus has been pursued in this country for a number of years, not out of malevolent scientific curiosity as has been suggested in the Commons, but for specific humanitarian reasons related to three major objectives.

The improvement of fertility therapy using in vitro fertilisation. The chance of an individual conceptus implanting after in vitro fertilisation and replacement into the uterus is only 10 per cent. Indeed, current research indicates that the vast majority of conceptuses grown in vitro will not even survive to the implantation period in culture (6 days), and hence would probably not produce a pregnancy.

Although the reasons for this failure are as yet obscure, the choices facing the medical scientist are clear. Either we use the very early non-viable non-sentient conceptus to evaluate and improve these techniques for the benefit of patients, or we continue on a trial and error basis, using the adult human patient as the research subject, irrespective of the financial, emotional, or psychological costs involved.

Since it is not yet possible to predict absolutely the number of eggs that will be obtained after drug stimulation therapy for in vitro fertilisation, there may be produced excess fertilised eggs that can safely be replaced into the mother (so-called "spare embryos").

Unfrozen sperm, eggs cannot be frozen prior to fertilisation. Current techniques only allow the successful freezing of the early conceptus (4 to 32 cells), which can be stored and used for replacement into the infertile woman if the initial attempt at replacement fails to produce a pregnancy. If eggs could be frozen many of the concerns about "spare embryos" would be obviated, but, in order to develop these techniques, donated human eggs must be frozen, and thawed, and examined for fertilisation and normality of early development.

Investigation and alleviation of male infertility. About 40 per cent of the infertile population are male. Many of these men have depleted numbers of spermatozoa but live in the persistent hope that they may one day father a child of their own, rather than resorting to AID or adoption. However, as no clear means of diagnosis or treatment is yet available, they become increasingly depressed as time passes without children and without hope of therapy.

In an attempt to provide a prognosis for clinically infertile men, experimental methods are being developed using specially prepared hamster eggs. Hamster eggs normally cannot be penetrated by sperm from another species, but when their normal investments are disrupted, penetration by fertile human sperm can be

achieved. These results correlate well with subsequent fertility. The end-point of this test is the microscopic examination of the flattened hamster egg for sperm penetration after this the egg is discarded. However, even if the hamster egg were to be left in culture it is so damaged by the preparative procedure, that it is unable to do more than divide once.

Thus, there has never been any intention to create human animal hybrids, but merely to try and help the infertile couple. This crude egg penetration test may "seem ridiculous" to Mr P. Brundells, MP (Hansard), but at present we have little else available. To believe, as he does, that "it cannot further research" and that "we do not need such research" shows a fundamental lack of understanding of the technique, of scientific method, and the misery of the infertile man.

Attempts are also being made to understand the process of human fertilisation by fertilising in vitro eggs donated by women undergoing sterilisation. We have found that after a full explanation of the implications of the test, 40 per cent of women undergoing sterilisation, are prepared to donate an egg for this purpose.

This demonstrates the compassion with which many of the infertile population view the infertile. Once valid parameters of measuring sperm fertility have been estab-

lished, scientists will be able to abandon crude in vitro assays.

Investigation of chromosomal abnormality and miscarriage. Some 60 per cent of conceptuses are lost before the first missed period, and a further 15 per cent miscarry. Over half of these abortions are chromosomally abnormal but the reasons why so many conceptuses are wasted naturally are not understood. Clearly, miscarriage is distressing to any couple, and a handicap because of chromosomal abnormality.

It is possible to determine the types of chromosomal abnormality which occur most frequently and their possible origins by an examination of the chromosomes from preimplantation conceptuses derived from donated oocytes fertilised in vitro. This may eventually lead to an understanding and prevention of chromosomal abnormality. Indeed, if appropriate gene probes can be developed, it should be possible to select conceptuses for replacement after in vitro fertilisation, in couples where the chance of carrying a single gene defect is high. Surely this is far preferable to the present situation of screening by amniocentesis and late abortion?

Many people now accept the need for research on the early human conceptus but ask for this to be limited to "spares" and that conceptuses should not be generated specifically

for research. However, with the advances in freezing techniques, patients choose to have excess embryos frozen for replacement. Ironically, the very success of earlier research has meant that "spares" are no longer available, and therefore all further research will cease unless early conceptuses are generated specifically for that purpose.

There are others who are against all research on the early human conceptus, believing unequivocally that human life and individuality begin at fertilisation, and that the human conceptus should be afforded protection and respect from this point. However, it seems inconsistent that these same people who believe this, accord the dignity of funeral rites to a late abortion or still-born child, but wantonly disregard and discard the foetus from the early miscarriage.

Moreover, experiments on early mouse embryos do not support the idea that individuality is expressed from the moment of fertilisation. In that species it seems not to occur until the embryo is about to divide to the four-cell stage some 36 hours after fertilisation. Recent research using in vitro derived human embryos suggests a similar mechanism may operate in man but at an even later stage.

It is thus easy to understand the emotional outburst from

the Church as once more, science has started to question dogma. Previously such heresy would have been greeted with cries of sorcery and witchcraft and resulted in persecution or burnings at the stake. Fortunately in our democratic and pluralist society, these emotions have been tempered into long petitions and emotive letters to the press.

Scientists do not deny that the human conceptus is "living" or "human" much as sperm or eggs are living and human. Nor do scientists claim, as has been suggested, that the 14th day suggested by the Warnock Commission as the limit for permissible research, marks the beginning of life. This marks an arbitrary point in the development of the conceptus at which twinning can occur for the last time, and for those who believe in the soul, surely it cannot enter the conceptus prior to this time, unless the soul is also capable of twinning.

However, scientists do question the validity of believing that the early conceptus is entitled to "protection" just as much as the law protects a child (Lord Denning - Hansard). It may seem to Lord Denning that "the only logical point which the law could start is the moment of fertilisation" but has he considered the consequences of such an assumption? The placenta and membranes which constitute in

excess of 90 per cent of the conceptus up to 14 days would also require burial and the full respect accorded to the embryo itself. The use of the intra-uterine contraceptive device would be illegal, contraception by the post-coital pill would be illegal, and the use of the safe progesterone-only pill would have to be questioned. The biological and social consequence of such a proclamation can only be an increase in the number of unwanted children or of legal abortions.

Science does challenge our existing values, it would be bad science if it were not novel. However, society is ill-served by the unwillingness of its leaders to understand and accept the novel and to have confidence in the motives of its medical scientists. The issues raised in the Warnock report are both important and complex, and therefore should be discussed widely. However, they must be discussed on the basis of knowledge and understanding that all too evidently has been lacking in correspondence to the press and in many of our Parliamentarians.

Peter Braude is senior research associate at the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Cambridge Clinical School. The research group of which he is a member is one of only two in Britain funded by the Medical Research Council to study early human embryos.

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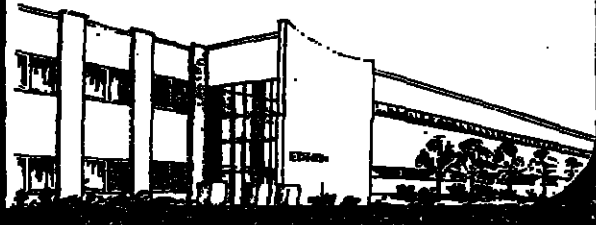
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POSSIBLY the greatest challenge facing modern man is that of securing the best deal when booking an airline flight. Trying to minimise your outlay while at the same time selecting the various constraints imposed by your schedule and by the different requirements accompanying the numerous special offers seems to require a degree in mathematics at the very least. So, as one whose infrequent forays to exotic places tend to be supported by research allowances which appear to be calculated on the basis of travel by bicycle, I gave more than a passing glance to the recent announcement that a young Indian mathematician working at Bell Laboratories had discovered an exciting new method of solving this kind of problem.

The Linear Programming Problem has been around as long as anyone can remember, and arises in all walks of life, particularly in economics, industry, engineering, transport, and defence. You have something you want to optimise (eg. make your costs as low as possible, maximise your profits, increase your chance of survival in some risky venture, etc.) and you want to achieve this by altering any one or more of a number of parameters, these parameters being subject to various constraints.

For example, suppose you own a factory which makes both widgets and woggets, with the current market price of the widget being twice that of the wogget. The manufacture of widgets and woggets require some common raw materials and some unique to each, and your highly skilled workforce can only produce one kind of product at any one time.

Of course you wish to maximise your profit. Ideally you work out which of your two products brings in the greatest profit and just concentrate on that. But life is never so simple. You find that by switching from one to the other every now and then you can maintain your machinery virtually without shutting any part down. Then there is the problem of the number of constraints of the raw materials you require, as well as the storage of the finished products (which, you will realise, involve totally different conditions). And you, sales people tell you, sales constraints on just how many widgets the market can stand without a ready supply of widgets to go with them. To say nothing of potential union problems if you don't tread warily. How on earth do you figure out how to maximise your profit whilst satisfying all of these constraints?

Now imagine a genuine situation which a modern businessman faces every day, where the number of constraints is vastly greater than in the above example. The sheer number of different permutations of the available



Booking a flight: Would it be quicker to take a short cut across the interior of the polytope? (Picture by Martin Argles.)

A linear programming problem is the one that has you tearing your hair out over airline schedules and makes guided missile designers old before their time. Keith Devlin reports on a new answer.

The short-cut solution

options prevents you from adopting the most obvious approach, that of calculating your profit for each possible combination and then simply picking out the best. But provided that all of your constraints are "linear" (that is, if you draw a graph of any one of them it will be a straight line in the case of two parameters), there is a reasonably efficient way of performing the calculation. (The use of the word "linear" in Linear Programming stems from this requirement. Most real life optimisation problems either already are or else can be reformulated as linear programming problems in this sense.)

The method is known as the Simplex Method, and was invented by the American mathematician George Dantzig (now at Stanford University, California) in 1947. Until recently, this method was by far the most successful way of solving linear programming problems, and the major computer manufacturers all supply commercially written programs for performing Dantzig's simplex Algorithm.

The idea behind the Simplex Algorithm is this. You first think of the problem in geometric terms. To take the simplest case first, if the problem only involves two parameters, say x and y , then since the linear equations in two variables represent straight lines on an ordinary graph, the various constraints of your problem correspond to straight lines on a graph.

Now, if you draw a number of straight lines on a piece of paper they will trace out a polygon, a triangle if there are three lines, a quadrilateral with four, a pentagon with five, and so on. The polygon you obtain in this way is a geometric representation of your problem constraints. With the case of three parameters, you get a three-dimensional geometric realisation of the constraints, namely a polyhedron (eg. a tetrahedron, a five-sided box, or whatever). For greater numbers of parameters the geometric realisation is, of necessity, purely abstract, since more than three dimensions will be necessary: if the problem has

N parameters, the geometric figure corresponding to its constraints will be an N -dimensional "polytope". (Incidentally, this indicates how a mathematical concept as bizarre as a 100 dimensional "polytope" can be of real use to the hard pressed business executive.)

The key to the Simplex Method is the fact that the values of the parameters which give you the optimum solution you require will be the coordinates of one of the vertices (corners) of this polytope. The aim of the Simplex Algorithm is to find this particular vertex.

It does this by starting at one particular vertex (the closer this vertex is to the final optimal vertex the better) and then proceeding from vertex to adjacent vertex until the optimal one is found. In the case of a two parameter problem this is easy, since there is only the choice of "clockwise" or "anticlockwise" to consider, but it is obvious that even a moderately complicated three

dimensional polyhedron offers numerous branching choices of route. The Simplex Algorithm works by making the best choice of route available at each step. (Remember, until it finds it, the algorithm has no idea where the optimal point is, so it cannot just "aim straight at it.")

It is possible to construct artificial problems which result in this approach taking a prohibitively long time to find the optimal vertex, but for most real life problems it seems to work well. And though in the early days of computers it was customary to take a short holiday while the program worked away on a problem with only a few hundred parameters, an efficiently written Assembly Language Simplex Program running on a fast mainframe computer can nowadays handle a typical 1,000 parameter problem in about five minutes.

But for "real time" problems such as the control of aircraft or nuclear power plants, even this is far too long, so mathematicians have

continued to look for a better method. In 1979, the Russian mathematician L. G. Khachiyan discovered an alternative method which was theoretically faster than the Simplex Method, but in practice it performed much slower than the Simplex Method, the advantage only showing up on the artificial examples constructed to beat Simplex.

Then, last year, Dr Narendra Karmarkar, the son of a mathematician, who grew up in Poona and studied for his doctorate at Berkeley, California, before joining Bell Laboratories in New Jersey in 1983, discovered a quite new method of tackling the problem. Tested on a typical 3,000 parameter problem it is a version of Murphy's Law which says that the "typical" problems which arise are always at the limits of the current computational ability. Karmarkar's Algorithm found the solution 50 times faster than a good commercially produced Simplex program (the MPSX/370). Since this latter product is written in Assembly Language and utilises the latest methods of Pipelined Computation, whereas Karmarkar's program was just a straightforward FORTRAN program, it can be inferred that the new method is significantly faster than Simplex and will rapidly supersede it, making "real time" control problems feasible.

The key mathematical idea behind Karmarkar's Algorithm is intuitively an obvious one. To go from an initial vertex of the constraint polytope to the optimal one it would be quicker to take a short cut across the interior of the polytope rather than meander along the edges. The problem is that if you try to do this, once you lose contact with the outer surface, then like an astronaut floating in space without a lifeline you can easily go off course. (The more so since you don't know exactly where you should be heading.)

Karmarkar overcomes this difficulty by proceeding in relatively small steps; after each one you perform a mathematical deformation of the interior of the polytope, with the result that in the deformed geometry there is an "obvious" direction to proceed, and you then move in the direction in the original space which corresponds to this. The result is that under the chosen deformation, in "no time at all" you find you have arrived at the optimal vertex.

Intuitively, the procedure can be thought of like a guided missile, which constantly alters its direction until it homes in on the target. One of the most depressing thoughts is that this will probably be one of the first applications of the new method.

Screen test

Sid Smith reports on the viewdata wrangle

WHEN confronted with the new and original, our first reaction is usually to seek an analogy in the old and familiar. But nothing strikes more terror in the computer industry than when this universal urge is directed against the new technology — especially when the people drawing the analogies are politicians, and when the analogies are of that fearsome type known as legal precedent.

"I cannot see the distinction between Prestel and other forms of broadcast material," said the Minister for Information Technology, Mr Geoffrey Pattie, "Prestel gives the same kind of restrictions on it as any other part of the broadcast media."

"If Mr Pattie hasn't adjusted to the fact that Prestel and similar systems are not the same thing as normal broadcasting," responded Neil Kinnock, "then he disqualifies himself as technology minister."

The stimulus for these disagreements was a row between the Labour Party and British Telecom. Their result is a code of practice which regulates this entire arm of the information technology industry — and which, incidentally, shows that analogies between old technology and new are as hazardous for politicians as for computer people.

Geoffrey Pattie's comparison between Prestel and broadcasting has just been overturned in favour of the Kinnock view.

That sort of information of course, would be restricted to authorised users only — which is another nice thing you can do with viewdata. But Labour was keen that some of its pages should be open to any Micronet subscriber.

Exactly what happened next is a matter of dispute, though there is no doubt that those public access pages soon joined the rest of Labour's database in a closed user group area.

The Labour Party was certain where the responsibility lay, and the Shadow technology spokesman Jeremy Bray issued a statement accusing the BT Chairman Sir George of an "autocratic and unauthorised" policy directive which effectively banned religious and political advertising on Prestel.

The war on the analogy started here. "When you're looking at Prestel you're looking at a screen," said the Minister. "It would appear to me to be reasonable that you should have the same sort of regulatory function in terms of religious and political advertisements what you have with other forms of broadcasting."

"There's a quantitative step," replied Neil Kinnock. "between produced broadcasting that leaves relatively little choice to the consumer, and Prestel which gives an infinity of choice. If Mr Pattie is worried about the partisanship of it, then let the Tories use Prestel as well, then we'll get balance and a variety of choice before the public which is the essence of democracy."

Said Geoffrey Pattie, "The analogy in Prestel terms has got to be the same as if things were being put out as paid advertisements on radio and television."

To which Neil Kinnock replied: "Prestel is like newspapers, publishing, and the general standards of newspaper advertising — we all see the Advertising Standards Authority posters — could be set down and easily adhered to."

There was little doubt, meanwhile, about the attitude of the general viewdata industry. If an analogy with newspapers meant less restrictive legislation, went the argument, then by all means let that comparison prevail.

Labour eventually forced a decision on the issue. Unilaterally opening its Micronet pages to public access, the Party threatened an injunction against anyone who dared to close them off again. This challenge was not taken up, and the Home Office has since decided that political advertising on Micronet should be governed by the same Advertising Standards Authority rules which cover newspapers.

Never mind the hype: when Unix arrives as an operating system it won't mean a revolution for the micro, argues Jack Schofield

Waiting for a false dawn

"ALTHOUGH it is not yet widely available for personal computers, Unix is clearly where the micro world is headed, and you will be hearing much more about it in the years to come."

This comment from Alfred Grossbrenner, (now a Buy Share, Sell Share 1984) is typical of those made by numerous commentators over the last five years. The Unix operating system has been held up as a sort of promised land for the micro, and its always-imminent arrival has generated more talk — at least within the trade — than almost anything else.

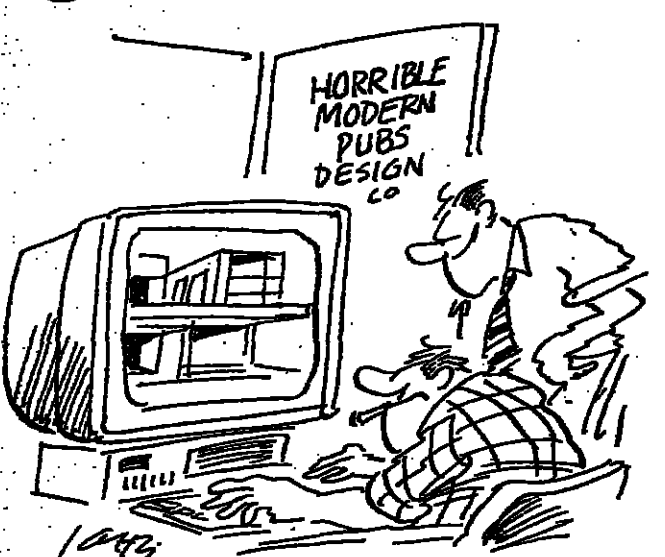
Alas this view is both profoundly and dangerously wrong. Unix will never make a big impact on the single-user micro market. Further, to the extent that it makes any impact, it is against the true spirit of microcomputing. Unix is indeed a powerful, (semi-) portable, multi-user/multi-tasking operating system, and it is backed by the might of AT&T's giant AT&T. Nevertheless, the Emperor has no clothes. Pointing this out usually falls to little boys. In this case, however, the finger has been raised by the micro world's always-imminent arrival has generated more talk — at least within the trade — than almost anything else.

According to IRD, "Unix will never be anything but a niche standard." It will not take over the mass market. IRD argues that Microsoft's MS-DOS is already so prevalent that the conversion to Unix doesn't make sense; it is cheaper to link micros using a local area network than to bring in a minicomputer or super-micro running Unix to do this, non-Unix operating systems will incorporate the best features of Unix anyway.

"Unix portability is a myth." All of these are good reasons. In fact, Microsoft has already written many Unix-like features into version two of MS-DOS, and is introducing a networking system with version three. This means you have to add only a hard disc "file-server" to be shared by all the different micros, and suitable interfaces, to create a network.

That route has been taken by AT&T with Microsoft's MS-NET on the Apricot. IBM will introduce the same system later this year for its Personal Computer. IBM's PC-DOS operating system and PC-NetWare are, of course, also written by Microsoft.

However, all this means little to people who actually want to buy and use Unix. What they need to be told is that Unix is the wrong route, because it flouts the two cardinal requirements of true microcomputing. These are: one "man" (micro) per machine, and bit-mapped graphics.



Unix has other limitations too. First, it requires a very beefy system to run it. Experience suggests that 512K is the real minimum RAM. Further, Unix alone takes up over four megabytes of disc, which means a hard disc system is required. Even though it can be run with about 1.5 megabytes of code, this is still too big for a floppy disc.

Second, almost all of Unix is written in a high-level language called C. So, are Unix programs. While this is economical, C runs slower and is less efficient than assembly language, in which most microcomputer programs are written — or at least optimised.

Third, in spite of claims of "portability," Unix is a rag-bag of operating systems with dozens of different versions. They may be portable in the sense that a software house can "port" (transfer) programs from one system to another. They are not portable in the sense that an ordinary user can do it.

Fourth, as already mentioned, applications software for Unix-based micros is scarce and extremely expensive.

Fifth, the whole Unix world moves incredibly slowly by microcomputer standards. You can buy a micro, take it home and start using it the same day. Within a week it can be performing useful tasks, and in six months you can have mastered it. Unix-based systems take months to buy and install, software takes years to appear, and applications are tackled on the slow timescale of the minicomputer field.

There are many mini-computer-type applications where a supermicro with terminals running Unix makes sense. As IRD points out, Unix will continue to dominate this niche in the market.

What is true is that Unix is not suitable for single-user micros; it is not a panacea to cure all ills; it does not provide anything fundamentally better for the user than today's cheap micros; and it is certainly not the future of microcomputing. Unix belongs with the dinosaurs. All this talk about "waiting for Unix to arrive" is nonsense.

The future of microcomputing lies with picture — or icon-based systems like the Apple Macintosh which requires bit-mapped graphics. This is the kind of system which makes computers easy to learn and use, and which allows for powerful new ways of doing things. The trend established by Apples Lisa and Macintosh micros — and which was first developed by Xerox — will shortly be followed by similar systems at the low end of the market.

Digital Research's GEM graphics environment manager is one example, due in micros from both Atari and Acorn. Commodore's forthcoming Amiga will offer similar facilities.

Unix is a venerable, not to say antique, operating system written about 15 years ago in AT & T Bell lab to run on a minicomputer. Then, micros were expensive and it made sense for ten or twenty people to share a computer. Now chips cost from under \$5 to around \$200 it doesn't make sense for each person not to have one or even several.

If a 2400 Sinclair QL-owner can have a Motorola 68000 of his or her own, why should someone spend \$10,000 on a super-micro and share a

single 68000 between a dozen people?

The second point is even more fundamental. All successful micros, and all significant microcomputer programs, require the use of memory-mapped graphics. This is where the screen display is actually mapped on to part of the computer's random access memory. RAM, so the whole screen image is in memory at once. This makes it possible to draw pictures and diagrams on the screen and to produce good microcomputer games.

With memory-mapped graphics you can have windows opening into the screen, and all the other fancy effects used by today's most useful programs such as Microsoft's Word, Ashton Tate's Framework and dBase III, and all the latest integrated packages.

By contrast, Unix assumes that the screen is a glass typewriter. You can go back over the line you are on, but not up or down. As you enter new lines, the old ones simply scroll off the top.

It is possible to add a "front end" or "shell" to provide a friendlier screen display. Fortune — just about the only computer magazine that takes Unix-based micros for one — four users — spent millions of dollars doing just this.

What this means is that a graphics-orientated micro costing £1,000 or so will actually outperform one costing £10,000, as far as a single user is concerned.

Nor is this something new. Five years ago people started buying Apple II's to run VisiCalc because it could do something useful that 280,000 micros could not. Before that, the whole microcomputer explosion came when people discovered that a mini could do things that a mainframe could not, even though it cost only one tenth as much. In the next five years, expect to see 255 machines that surpass today's 25,500 desk-top models. (Look at the advances between Sinclair's ZX-80 and four years on, the QL and that seems a certainty). But they won't be running Unix to do it.

The IRD report suggests about 72,000 Unix-based supermicros were sold in 1984, and predicts sales of around 240,000 in 1985. By comparison, over four million MS-DOS and PC-DOS micros are already in use, with sales of over a million a year expected through 1988. In other words, the battle to make Unix the "standard" has already been lost. It's time we debunked the propaganda war about the wonders of Unix as well.

Unix Markets, report 626, IRD Inc, 6 Provost Street, Norwich, CT 06855, USA.

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Appointments continue on page 23

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Reform plans for social security payments are being discussed in unprecedented secrecy. DAVID HENCKE reports

The concealed benefits of Mr Norman Fowler

THE REFORM of Britain's £40 billion a year social security system is one of the most crucial decisions to be taken by the Thatcher Government this year. Yet the handling of proposals to change the system are showing that the Government is now more concerned with their presentation than their content.

Reports from the Department of Health show a concern for unprecedented secrecy to the detriment of discussing the merits or demerits of a system which affects nearly half the population of Britain.

After setting up inquiries into pensions, supplementary benefit, and children's benefits all chaired by themselves, DHSS ministers have proceeded to limit discussions within the Department of Health.

Only one inquiry, that into housing benefit, stands a

chance of publication and then only as an annex to a White Paper already announcing the Government's intentions. Publication is at present scheduled for early March.

For the rest of the reviews, ministers have put together papers that barely resemble an inquiry report. Since they are the chairmen of the committees, they probably feel that this is unnecessary, but for the public and claimants looking for an argued case about the future of supplementary benefit or one parent benefits this does not bode well.

The concern for excessive secrecy manifested itself in striking terms in the discussion that has followed the reviews. Under the original proposals Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, had already decided to set up a coordinating committee under Mrs Anne Bowtell, an able under-secretary, with

wide experience of the supplementary benefit system, fuel policy, the homeless and housing benefit, to draw together the new White Paper.

He decided to hold a 10-day conference at Wilton Park in Sussex with hand-picked civil servants to discuss what to do next. His press officers proposed a release announcing the conference. Mr Fowler instead decreed that the conference must remain a top secret, scuttled the press release, and put one of the highest classifications "secret" on the conference agenda.

The classification of the agenda as secret means that if the information and material were published "the unauthorised disclosure would cause serious injury to the interests of the nation." Such a classification is normally used to cover background papers to foreign treaties, highly sensitive economic in-

formation and defence details.

As a result most civil servants were not even to be told of the titles of the sessions in the big country house. Only about half a dozen civil servants were invited by Mr Fowler to join him and other ministers for the whole conference. The rest of the civil servants were invited to attend only for the sessions where they had a direct interest. Once the session was over they were despatched by train back to the Department of Health's headquarters at the Elephant and Castle.

According to one civil servant the only exchange of information took place in the gentlemen's lavatory. Nor have all the papers been made available to the select few. One particularly alarming proposal on the future of the pensions scheme was read by headquarters and ordered to be destroyed im-

mediately. Ministers have ordered all the other pension papers to be renumbered so that no trace of the offending document exists.

Despite this ministers do have an inkling of the way they want the social security system reformed — and at present does not look like good news for millions of claimants. They still have a long way to go in costing individual options — which is why no firm proposals have yet been leaked. Ministers have also to get their programme through the Treasury and the Cabinet.

At best claimants can hope that the view of Mr Tony Newton, the social security minister as "Mr Nice" will prevail and they will only suffer a redistribution of the £40 billion from the "undeserving" to the "deserving" poor.

At worst Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, will want some £3 to £4 billion from benefit savings so he can pay

for tax cuts in the years 1986 and 1987 without the need to worry about economic growth. The major proposals under review will involve big changes to pensions, child benefit, housing benefit and supplementary benefit.

The housing benefit review has recommended a substantial simplifying of the "so called simplified" scheme, enough for some of its members to boast about scrapping the system. But ministers are at present having to weigh up how far they can go in simplifying cutting the provisions for determining people's benefit entitlement.

The pensions inquiry, which presents its proposals as "issue papers," balances the drawbacks and benefits of scrapping the enhanced state scheme which comes into force in 1998.

Mr Fowler already has detailed proposals, reported in the Guardian in 1983, to worsen the terms of a new

scheme by cutting back widows' benefits so he may not need to scrap it.

Mr Fowler is also keen on considering whether the basic pensions needs to rise in line with inflation in the 21st century and has even been impressed with an American case to raise the pension age.

Plans to introduce a two tier child benefit system — a higher benefit for the poor — and a taxed benefit for the middle classes have still to be properly costed.

One chapter of the White Paper that has already been written and should be guaranteed to be published is a history of the social security system from Beveridge to the present day. Mr Fowler is determined that his plans should be seen in the context of 40 years of the Welfare State. Whether his proposals will go down as a serious historical event remain to be seen.

Mark Tran reports from Washington on the end of an era

Colt goes West

THE US Army has at last accepted what Ian Fleming had been telling them for years. The Pentagon has decided to ditch the venerable Colt 45 in favour of the distinctly less macho Italian Beretta 9mm handgun as the standard issue for officers, military police and other personnel who carry sidearms. In announcing its choice, which ended years of wrangling, the army said the Beretta was lighter, safer, more accurate and more reliable than the .45 that the army has been using since 1911.

The shootout between the Beretta, long favoured by spy hero James Bond, and the .45 sparked major disagreements in Congress and the army with opponents citing cost, tradition and the gun's less virile image. "You can see it's more delicate," an army public affairs officer said as he pointed to design differences in the two guns. He quickly added, "No, that's wrong, word don't use that word."

The .45 became the standard pistol for the army after the US quelled an insurrection in the Philippines during the early 1900s. But the Colt name stretches back to the days of the American West when its pistols were used by gunfighters, cowboys and the army. With such a long association with American culture, the decision to break with the Colt was not an easy one for those involved.

The demise of the Colt .45, in this instance, springs from a desire to modernise the use of sidearms throughout the US Army. A study by the house appropriations subcommittee on defence, in 1978, discovered that the military used over 25 different types of handguns and more than 100 types of ammunition. The subcommittee duly instructed the military to standardise, and the Pentagon opted for the 9mm. The Beretta will also bring the US military into line with other Nato countries, most of which use 9mm guns.

But in a rearguard battle, members of the house armed services committee told the army they did not share the concerns of their colleagues on the appropriations subcommittee. They questioned the need to spend so much on new guns — the transition will cost over \$200 million — when the .45 seemed adequate and they expressed concern at the prospect of a foreign company muscling in. However, after months of tests, the guns were dropped in mud, sand and water, shooting them 5,000 times each — the army selected the Beretta. To sweeten the pill, the company will manufacture at least 134,000 guns in the US.

The .45 has nostalgic appeal for some officers, but others have complained about its inaccuracy, its heavy kick, its weight and its safety features. As one retired marine put it, "I'm sure that thing has shot more Americans than enemy."

For Faul thinks that if there was a steady release of prisoners then the Church would have something substantial with which to go to the people, proving that there is an alternative to the violence of the paramilitaries.

A nationalist, he is happier with direct rule from London than a system of devolved power "because that would be in the hands of people like Ian Paisley."

But the future prospects are not bright. "Labour are great when in opposition but when in power they have walked all over us," he said. "At least you know where you stand with Mrs Thatcher: she hates our guts."



Bob Geldof: now the Ethiopians know its Christmas. Picture by Martin Argles

Bob Geldof masterminded a record sum for famine relief. He talks to WALDEMAR JANUSZCZAK

The Band Aid envoy in the Ethiopian wasteland

A DAY is currently an awfully long time in the life of one Robert Geldof, lead singer of the Boomtown Rats. No sooner had he stepped off the plane from Addis Ababa than he was ushered into yet another BBC studio, only this time there was Eamonn Andrews with his hand out and that horrible red book under his arm. "Bob Geldof, you thought you were participating in..."

Geldof saw his entire life flash past his eyes long before the rest of us saw it on our screens. His friends had been taking bets that he would refuse to do the programme. But someone pushed him in from behind and there was no escape.

The first thing he did there was to take the country's Relief Commissioner for an eight kilometre walk to tell him exactly what he was doing wrong. The British journalists in Addis quickly coined a phrase for it — punk diplomacy.

In Addis for instance there

was a "ridiculous" exhibition of Soviet youth. "What has Soviet youth done for them? Whereas Western youth have given £8 million."

In fact Western youth, and its uncles, aunts, parents, and grandmothers has not only taken Bob Geldof and his big mouth to its heart but also bought 3.2 million copies of Don't They Know It's Christmas, making it the biggest selling single of all time. It has already earned the ragtag group of pop stars who make up Band Aid three platinum records. And it earned Geldof the right to swan around Ethiopia saying whatever he wanted to whoever he wanted.

The colour I always associate with communism is grey. It seemed a terrible dichotomy that people as full of life as the Ethiopians should be saddled with such a dull grey exterior. They had better get their act together.

Whether Ethiopia's revolutionary Marxist government enjoyed being told to get its

act together by a punk pip-squeak from Ireland, I doubt, but they granted him his every wish and allowed him to go wherever he chose.

The Ethiopian officials he spoke to were particularly impressed by the fact that the Band Aid relief effort was not government backed. It bore out their view that people in the West want to help but that their governments were obstructive. This angered Geldof who found himself involved in several fierce stand-up rows with the "comrades."

Nevertheless when he wanted a plane to take him to Lalibela they got him a DC3 in two hours. Other journalists had been trying to get there for three weeks.

It was here in the ancient home of the Coptic church that he got his first close view of the real problems of Ethiopia. In Addis he stayed along with the other journalists and relief workers, at the Hilton, and food was relatively plentiful. Here they still use the Julian calendar

and by chance he arrived on Christmas Eve in the midst of eerie, early Christian celebrations. Among the crouching figures praying in churches dug out of solid rock he stumbled over his first dead bodies.

"You do useless things like cry and feel terrible despair and rage. And then you sort of wander off by yourself and try to come to terms with the staggering, horrible enormity of what you've seen. A child squatting in its own diarrhoea and it has nothing left to shit except its own stomach. The noise starts up at about four in the morning. People coughing and spitting and moaning. They wake up, start using calories, and they die."

In one of those loud and rather unsavoury phrases in which he specialises, he describes it as being like the first snow through the gates at Belsen. Except that this was an entire country.

He refused to be photographed passing among the starving children in a safari suit.

The least you can give people when they die is dignity. What about those people who accuse him of naivety or self-publicity?

I didn't question my own role. I question that it should happen at all. I knew that if I went there it would create publicity. And perhaps encourage more donations."

However, if there are any rich people who read the Guardian, he continues, apologising if this again sounds naive, would they please help. After all the millionaire Arab industrialist Adnan Khashoggi just phoned him up and offered him a plane to fly stuff into Sudan. So if anyone out there has a ship, or a water

drilling rig.

He's also met with representatives of both ERA, the Eritrean separatist group, and RSF, who represent the Tigre rebels, and will be taking aid to both groups, via Sudan, mumbles Britain's first punk statesman, adjusting the safety-pin that holds his trousers together.

He tells another story of meeting a convicted IRA member whilst shopping in Marks and Spencer. The man had spent six years inside the Maze. "His wife and child were sticking to him like limpets. He won't offend."

West Belfast MP Mr Gerry Adams said recently after criticism from the Roman Catholic leadership, that it ill became the Church to attack the Sinn Féin-IRA philosophy when it didn't have anything itself to offer.

For Faul thinks that if there was a steady release of prisoners then the Church would have something substantial with which to go to the people, proving that there is an alternative to the violence of the paramilitaries.

A nationalist, he is happier with direct rule from London than a system of devolved power "because that would be in the hands of people like Ian Paisley."

But the future prospects are not bright. "Labour are great when in opposition but when in power they have walked all over us," he said. "At least you know where you stand with Mrs Thatcher: she hates our guts."

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Father on the front line



Father Denis Paul

AMID the jumble of theological books in French, English and German, civil rights pamphlets, newspapers, cuttings and folders stuffed with official correspondence, is a cardboard box, full of handwritten letters addressed to Fr Denis Paul, Dunganon.

He picks one out at random. It is from a young Roman Catholic who claims that he was walking home from his girlfriend's house one night when he was stopped by the police. The man, whose brother had been in trouble, says he was made to lie on the ground, the barrel of a gun was put into his ear and he was told to start talking.

For the clergyman it is a pretty run-of-the-mill complaint. He will pass it on in

the way he has 1,500 or so others about the police and army over the past 14 years. And probably the same thing will happen as it has in every other case: nothing.

Fr Paul, who was instrumental in ending the prison hunger strike might be Northern Ireland's best known priest, but he is certainly not the most popular.

At one time he carried the tag "The Provo priest." Now when he goes on a Sunday to say Mass at the Maze prison, the Republican paramilitaries of the IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army walk out, still bitter about his role at the climax of the hunger strike protests and his outspoken condemnation of violence.

He has hardly endeared himself either to the Royal Ulster Constabulary or the British Army. As well as acting as a channel for the constant flow of complaints about the security forces, he has come out with pretty forthright advice to fellow Roman Catholics.

Last month, for instance there was a row after he offered the opinion that any Catholic going to a police station should take a solicitor with him. The lawyer had to be there, he argued, to deter policemen from pressurising them into turning out and passing on information or gossip about

friends, neighbours and relatives.

This month there was another dispute when he and a fellow priest published a closely argued pamphlet making the case that for the killing to stop in Northern Ireland there had to be a gradual release of prisoners from the gaols.

Freeing men and women who committed crimes perhaps more than a decade ago and who could be adjudged no longer a danger to society, would be the way to beat the terrorists. It would provide a sense of hope for many families and lessen the hold that the paramilitaries have on those families whose sons and daughters are behind bars. "Naive" and "crackers" were two of the kinder responses from Unionist politicians.

Fr Paul has become a one man civil rights campaign, not so much speaking as shouting out about matters which many of the more safety conscious in Northern Ireland would remain reticent on. The 52-year-old cleric has taught at St Patrick's Academy in the grey County Tyrone town of Dunganon, the heart of what has been called the murder triangle of Northern Ireland for the past 26 years.

He first attracted widespread attention in 1959 with the claim that Catholics felt

PAUL JOHNSON meets the Roman Catholic Priest who upsets all sides in Northern Ireland

the province's judicial system was against them. Sixteen years on and that might be regarded as a truism. At the time it brought criticism not only from the government but also a rebuke from the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the person of Cardinal Conway. Fr Paul was told to keep quiet. The silence lasted about two weeks.

He lives in part of an old school house, working from a room crammed with books and papers, the sound of helicopters going back and forth from the nearby UDR base, a constant reminder of the military presence.

To understand Northern Ireland you need to get the worm's eye view," he says, screwing his eyes shut as if picking his words carefully. "And to get that view you need to ask the Catholic: he is the worm."

The belief is that the Catholics of Northern Ireland are alienated by a legal system that is partial, the Protestant-dominated UDR and RUC, the use of plastic bullets and discrimination in jobs and housing.

"One thinks of Brendan Behan when he said, 'I am a daylight atheist' in the Catholic ghettos when people go to bed at night and think about all those guns in the hands of the Protestant paramilitaries, they are

grateful for the insurance value of the IRA."

Spilling out a succession of names, he says that many families have become what he calls "prisoners of the Provos." When a young man is in prison they come around saying: "What are you doing to help?" That way people are pushed to going on marches, voting and even providing safe houses.

The results can be tragic. He cites an example: "There was this young boy of 21 from Lenadon in Belfast. He had a brother in prison and the IRA said you cannot just ignore it, you have to do your bit."

It seems he may have joined. Only three weeks later the RUC took him in for questioning. Perhaps he talked because a gun was found in Lenadon. Then the IRA took him away for interrogation. He was found dead, shot in the head."

Meetings of relatives he organised during the autumn of 1981 were seen as instrumental in bringing about the end of the hunger strike. There were claims from Sinn Féin that he had put pressure on those relatives to request medical intervention.

Then, as now, he believes that the family is the key to the problem. If you can get to the families, let the men see how important the family life is and how empty life is in prison. "The only people

who can beat the IRA are the Catholics not the soldiers or the RUC."

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An Indian Dynasty

Walter Schwarz on the Gandhis and Nehrus

The Nehrus and the Gandhis: An Indian Dynasty, by Tariq Ali. Introduced by Salman Rushdie (Penguin, £2.95).

THE DELHI dynasty in its glamour and drama — Nehru's stupendous inheritance from the Raj, his daughter's succession, her son Sanjay's air crash, her daughter-in-law Maneka's rebellion, India's assassination, her son Rajiv's succession — is soap opera still running.

Mr Salman Rushdie, who has not been kind to his Gandhi in his novels, describes the show as a confidence trick in his introduction to this book, blaming the glib Indian public and the international press and the Nehru-Gandhi's own myth-making.

But why has the dynasty arisen? Was it a family plot or an accident of history, a good thing or a bad? Tariq Ali also takes a disenchanted view, concluding on his last page that the Indian people will one day "want their revenge".

This sounds more crudely bitter than his thoughtful intelligent analysis had led up to. His central point is that the ruling Congress Party has long been bankrupt — "an instrument of the classes that ruled India, through its appeal increasingly tarnished, was directed at the underprivileged."

THE British and American governments have earned an international reputation for their skill in clothing the pursuit of base interest in the language of an exalted morality. The anti-slavery crusades of the nineteenth century furnished some particularly flagrant cases of such cant: Africa was partitioned and Brazil made safe for the foreign investor in the name of abolitionism.

Not infrequently, official commitment to the anti-slavery cause wilted when put to a real test. Thus Pitt sent British troops to suppress the slave revolt in Saint Domingue while Palmerston and Gladstone managed to combine deprecation of slavery with support for the Southern Confederacy. When Cuban rebels proclaimed freedom for the slaves in 1870 this did nothing to end British or American support for their slaveholding Spanish oppressors.

In *Slavery and Human Progress* David Brion Davis is concerned to explain as well as to expose such paradoxes

After Indira, only sycophants and time servers remained. Rajiv was needed, in extremis, so that the show could go on. The dynasty is a symptom, not a cause.

Mr Ali reportedly wrote this book in 42 days, after two brief visits to India and one chat with Mrs Gandhi who gave him little away. He had consulted just 29 books — 26 of them strictly relevant — which he is honest enough to list.

The haste shows in an inelegant style, the absence of index or notes. Even the thinking is slipshod in places, as in the two sentences, surely contradictory: "Rajiv was needed for strictly dynastic purposes. She felt she needed a Nehru-Gandhi by her side."

Dynastic ambition is one thing, the need for a trusted intimate at a difficult moment surely quite another: the opposite in this context.

And yet this is a very worthwhile essay. The editor of the New Left Review gives us his Marxist interpretation, with moderation, without aggressiveness, of the India of the Nehru-Gandhis.

He does it with pace, sincerity and compassion, but without forgetting his own everyday preoccupations. He surely had another party of the left in mind, in another country, when he wrote of the dilemmas facing the communists in power in Kerala and West Bengal — the "dialectic of partial conquest," the agonising choice between realistic compromise (which disappoints follow-

ers) and root and branch reform, with all its risks.

His obsessions break through again when he says the Hindu Times is "the most important mouthpiece, like 80 per cent of the press in Britain." They are pinpointed yet again, with Freudian accuracy, when he explains how the Kaul-Nehrus of Kashmir changed their name to the Nehrus of Delhi. "The process is not dissimilar to that inflicted upon immigrants from continental Europe to Britain or the United States. So, as Oppenheimer became Hobsbawm, Kaul became Nehru."

Nehru, the hero of this book, who succeeded by lesser politicians, emerges as a potential socialist who simply did not have the courage to build a socialism that was independent of Moscow, Gandhi, and virtually everyone else. Unity seemed more important.

Indira is quite different, showing only iron-fisted Realpolitik as a cold instrument to the only significant goal in her party. These qualities are traced, convincingly, throughout her career, up to the emergency which she declared to keep herself in power.

Mr Tariq Ali's Marxist interpretations of the emergency, of Sanjay, of the Sikh extremists and the Assam massacres are the best things in the book. Sanjay stood for the rising business

classes against upper-caste power; the revolt of the Sikhs was rich farmers pressing for higher produce prices and lower costs of energy and irrigation.

Indira's long decline from inherited glory, if not idealism, to cynical hanging on to power, stands confirmed in the only significant quote Tariq Ali got from her. He asked if a dynasty could be a substitute for party politics



and if the regime had not declined since Nehru's day. She replied: "But standards are going down everywhere are they not? Is the party nothing behind it today the same as it was under Churchill... or Labour when Mr Bevan was alive?"

So Tariq Ali's story is of endless decline and compromise. Not a dynastic plot — Nehru would have been horrified at the idea, and

most of his space to exploring the significance of nineteenth century anti-slavery doctrine.

Since *Slavery and Human Progress* is both shorter and more comprehensive than its predecessors it can usefully serve as an introduction to Davis's investigations which, taken together, certainly constitute the most sustained and impressive attempt to document and explain Western attitudes towards personal bondage.

Davis is careful to qualify the argument that abolition expressed an ideology of capitalist progress: not only does he acknowledge the humanitarian impulses in the abolitionist movement but he also refers to the emergence of an unofficial and radical strand of anti-slavery in the course of the battles for emancipation.

The zeal of the convert might well explain Mr Paulin's urge to exorcise a lost leader, but not the tone of a jilted shrew. It is most significant that Paulin is the first serious writer to discuss Ian Paisley in depth, and with a gleam of sympathy.

I too long for a united Ireland but, with this bunch of illiterate and bigoted men, I wonder if we will ever understand one another.

Terence de Vere White

THE Joy of Art, by David Piper with Christopher Cerf and Peter Owen (Mitchell Beazley, £14.95 to January 31, then £16.95).

AZ of Art and Artists, by David Piper (Mitchell Beazley, £16.95).

THE Joy of Art is one of those infinitely copying titles, like *The Joy of Sex*. Does it denote a deficiency in us if we

haven't experienced orgasm today before Titoretto's *Susannah and the Elders*? Is our foreplay inadequate if we fail to rise to Titian's *Venus and the Organ Player*?

Relax. It is all much better than the title suggests. This is a general introduction to art, but built round a hard core of information on colour and technique by David Piper's collaborators. And there is an illuminating section of analyses of a selection of great paintings from Byzantium through to modern art to which I would certainly wish to refer before visiting any of the galleries involved.

Likewise, the *AZ of Art and Artists* (the necessary preposition would presumably be "after" rather than "before") is constructed to fit coffee tables, but by confining itself to western fine art it manages to compress a wide range of information, even about the unfashionable movements and artists of the day before yesterday.

Michael McNay

Note also Jeffrey Wainwright's *Selected Poems*, and from Routledge, a new sequence of poems by Peter Redgrove, *The Man Named East*. Redgrove's *Selected Poems* (Women's Press) is the first collection of the American novelist's poems to be published in this country.

Peter Van der Merwe's *Feeling* (Peter Owen) recounts the careers of a golden lad and girl of the Thirties and their involvement in a major political scandal after the war, and the same list includes a new novel by James Purdy, *On Glory's Course*, set in a small mid-Western town in the Thirties.

There are new stories by Raymond Carver in *Fires from Collins*, who also have a novel by Jonathan Raban, *Foreign Land*, in which a failed husband, failed father, failed son returns after thirty years' absence from England to what looks like a failed country, too. A. S. Byatt's *Still Life* (Chatto) presents scenes from bourgeois life in the late Fifties, and *Flunkies*, from the same list, is a post-apocalyptic novel by Dennis Johnson.

Finally, two important books from Yale — Maynard Mack's *Alexander Pope: the first full biography since 1900*, and the first volume of Tim Hilton's long-awaited study of *Ruskin* (Ruskin: The Early Years).

Also noted: *Fiction*: Lisa Alther, *Other Women* (Viking); John Brack, *The Bass Tree* (Marion Boyars); Barbara Comyns, *The Juniper Tree* (Methuen); Julian Rathbone, *Watching the Detectives* (Faber); Amos Oz, *A Perfect Peace* (Chatto); Jane Gardam, *Crusoe's Daughter* (Hamish Hamilton); Snoc Wilson, *Inside Mahler* (Chatto); Bernice Rubens, *Mr Wakefield's Crusade* (Hamish Hamilton); Frances Molloy, *No More for the Magpie* (Virago); Joan Riley, *The Unbelonging* (Women's Press).

The children of strangers

Robin Blackburn on a new study of the contradictions of abolitionism

Slavery and Human Progress, by David Brion Davis (Oxford, £17.50).

of exceptional strain for the ruling order.

Davis's thesis is that middle class anti-slavery was inspired by a new religion of progress, a species of bourgeois utopianism uniting moral and utilitarian appeals in the construction of a new social order. The fear of want and unemployment was to replace the fear of the whip; prisons, police, and schools were to assure public order and social reproduction. Thus the leading abolitionists were social reformers and, later, pioneers of a new international order and of imperial colonisation.

The first eighty pages are devoted to an account of Christian, Judaic and Moslem teaching on the subject of enslavement. Davis shows that prior to the eighteenth century slavery had been universally accepted as a civilised, indeed "civilising," institution, perfectly adapted to the incorporation of the "children of strangers."

Such an influential and liberal thinker as John Locke could condone slavery and invest in the slave trade. But with the advent of the "Age of Revolution," social forces and aspirations were released which found chattel slavery both offensive and inefficient.

In two important previous studies Davis has traced a fuller account of this development. In the present work he resumes the themes of his previous books and devotes

the book is full of brilliant insights, and when he is approving Henry James for example — Mr Paulin's prose takes on the smoothness of a well-mown lawn.

Ulster fares well at his hands, with what delicate kindness he lets down the Mahon when he has to reveal that the book of poems he is reviewing falls short of the near-perfection of Mahon's earlier work. He can be lethal with wit, but on the whole he is a reviewer of peace. Sometimes a self-conscious pedantry makes his own writing opaque.

Would Yeats have made an exception of his own case? I think not. Unlike his gentle hero, the embattled John Hume, Mr Paulin from his Nottingham base shoots out too many poisoned arrows. The attack on Conor Cruise O'Brien which scorched the presses of *The Times* Literary Supplement some time back is reprinted here.

TWO contributions to the spring lists from the first anniversary of the miners' strike: *Digging Deeper*, essays edited by Ray Beynon, to be published by Pluto Press on the day, and *The Last Rising* (Oxford), in which David J. V. Jones commemorates the Chartist revolt in Wales, 1800-1830, and the march on Newport, twenty of whom were shot dead, and 250 arraigned in a mass treason trial.

The fictional curiosity of the season is Graham Greene's *The Tenth Man* (Bodley Head), a short novel set in France at the end of the war when people were on the roads everywhere trying to get home. Greene wrote it in 1944 when he was under contract to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and the MSS was only discovered from MGM's archives in 1983.

Three first novels in this list too, as well as Patrick Cosgrave's third book on Fletcher in six years, a biography of Tennessee Williams by Don Spoto and — another rarity — Lord Devlin's account of the trial of John Bodley Adams (East). *Passing*, a first full-length account by a judge of a trial over which he presided.

Additions to social history include recollections of country house life between the wars, edited by Merlin Waterson, *The Country House* (Routledge); *Carlton Jackson's* study of the wartime evacuation, partly from Mass Observation reports, *Who Will Take Our Children* (Methuen); and a lively Virago collection of memories of what it was like to be a girl growing up in the Fliters from Sheila Rowbotham, Denise Riley, Alison Fell and others (Trilby, Dare or Promise, edited by Liz Herron).

All or some of these might be read in conjunction with P. N. Furbank's *Unholy Pleasures: The Idea of Social Class* (Oxford), a study of the rhetoric of class, a concept which, says blurb, "has had

Out of Ireland

Ireland and the English Crisis, by Tom Paulin (Bloodaxe Books, £5.95 paper; £12.95 cloth).

TOWARDS the end of his life Yeats was asked whether he regretted the partition of Ireland. No, the nation poet replied, he did not. The Northern Irish were "Such unpleasant people."

Tom Paulin quotes this in one of the essays in his collection of miscellaneous writings gathered together under a provocative title and with an introduction intended to give a sense of unity and evangelical purpose to the whole. Mr Paulin is a convert to the idea of a united Ireland in a secular republic.

"The English Crisis" of the title is the decline and corrup-

tion of standards in academe. The book is full of brilliant insights, and when he is approving Henry James for example — Mr Paulin's prose takes on the smoothness of a well-mown lawn.

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All or some of these might be read in conjunction with P. N. Furbank's *Unholy Pleasures: The Idea of Social Class* (Oxford), a study of the rhetoric of class, a concept which, says blurb, "has had

its day." Whatever about that, one of the treats of the season from the same list should be *The Singing Game*, in which Iona and Peter Opie trace the history of such games, often antique in their origins, in British school playgrounds and back streets up and down the country.

Some likely literary memoirs: Heinrich Boll's brief but touching recollections of a boyhood in Nazi Germany, *What's to Become of the Boy?* (Secker), and *Love and Exile* (Cape), in which Isaac Bashevis Singer describes growing up in Warsaw under the shadow of antisemitism and the threat of Nazism, and being lost as a young immigrant in New York in the Thirties. Also Ronald Hayman's *Secrets* (Peter Owen), an account of a Jewish childhood in England in the Thirties and Forties.

The Cape list also includes *The Diaries of Sophia Tolstoy*, translated by John Forster, Anthony Blond's *The Book with, says blurb, plenty of "lively (at times outrageous) descriptions of figures who inhabit the book world," and The Pillow Book of Eleanor Bron, an evidently quite uncommemorable book: among the list of curiously satisfying things is included the sending of flowers to a loved one's mistress.*

Philip Ziegler's official biography of Monty is the big thing in Collins list, which also includes one of two books about the Huguenot diaspora. *A Family From Flanders*, by John Peters, the other, from Routledge, is a more general account. *Huguenot Heritage*, the first large-scale Huguenot history since 1887, by Robin D. Gwynn.

Ellen Kuzwayo's *Call Me Woman* (Women's Press), enthusiastically introduced by Nadine Gordimer and

A buttonholing Celtic art

Norman Shrapnel reviews new fiction

The Captain's Paramour, by E. Arnold Price (Hamish Hamilton, £3.95).

Selected Short Stories, by Gwyn Thomas (Poetry Wales Press, £8.95).

Made for Each Other, by Virginia Ironside (Hamish Hamilton, £7.95).

Confessions of a Murderer, by Joseph Roth, trans. Desmond I. Vesey (Chatto £8.95).

"I WAS quite old, nearly eight years old before I began to understand that there was something queer about the two Maspratt girls, Janet and Jinn."

It is hard to resist a tale starting like that, and there is much to be said for the authentic buttonholing art as developed by E. Arnold Price in her Irish stories, *The Captain's Paramour*. The more so since they are free from the blandishments of that vice of modern fiction, charm-mongering — not the same thing at all.

Priests and pipers and poachers, the clapping of hooves outside country pubs — all the familiar domestic props are there, viewed through the childhood memories out of which the first half of the book is shaped and which seem to have a sobering effect. Though inevitably bewildered, the young reader is capable of understanding more about the mysteries of the adult world than you might think, or at least of knowing what to store for future recovery.

The second (and on the whole less distinguished) part presents a more direct confrontation with the inadequacies and frustrations of adulthood, admirably presented but somehow the power is lacking the filter of that baffled yet illuminating childish vision.

Will striking miners be reading the Gwyn Thomas round-up? It's a quaint thought, since these *Selected Short Stories* exploit the nostalgia of the Welsh valleys in the early years of the century, a maverick chronicler has made his own. A young collier sits in his tin bath and his watching mother glories in the sight of the "mighty, unremembered thrift that sang from the hidden protruding bone in the body of her son."

Sentimental? Hardly — or if Thomas is that, he gives the word a new twist. Funny. Undoubtedly, but in spite of his stylistic mannerisms he is no routine dullard.

Comedians die (often at a date long before the one cited in their obituaries) when they become turns, when they lose any human feeling they may have set out with. It hasn't happened to Thomas. There are more jokes than laughs; often they are more a figure of speech than an expression of lightheartedness. His gift for the absurd catches the eye, as when the police let fly "to help the landlords lose their chains."

Several of these stories are quite humorous, straight shouts of indignation and pain. Thomas doesn't pamper or flatter his "readers," who collectively put one in mind of Lowry characters — indomitable stick-insects who might one day take over but show little sign of it as yet.

fantasy, maybe this country's most distinctive current literary mode.

Outside fantasy, science fiction shows every sign of reverting to the absurd, and one can see why. Robert Silverberg's *The Conquest of the Earth* (Collins, £8.95) is a clutch of stories written mostly for Omni, Playboy and Penthouse and determined exactly by that readership: beneath dynamic, successful, sexy exteriors they conceal deep nervousness, frenetic boredom. Did I pick the right genre-shaping? Will they admit me if I go berserk? What's the right time to be at just now?

In Ian Watson's *The Book of the Stars* (Collins, £8.95) his earlier heroine Yaelen is also suddenly jerked from her bedchamber world and flung by Koforce round the galaxy only to return as her own baby sister, and wait, and wait, till the events she has already lived through come numbly round again.

So, if your social whirl makes you feel as a hamster on methedrine, what can you do? The English answer, in Douglas Adams's fourth "hitch-hiker" book *So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish* (Pan, £8.95), is to hang back, sneer, and take it all very cool — too cool, really, as Adams is now edging down from Vogan to earth, round the galaxy, to poetry to mere satire of British Rail sandwiches (a double anticlimax, for it seems the Earth hasn't been destroyed to make an interstellar bypass after all).

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Tom Shippey

Mythago Wood, by Robert Holdstock (Collins, £8.95).

RYEHOPE WOOD, in Rob Holdstock's best and latest novel, is like *Dreamland* in that it is populated by creatures from the unconscious mind, the "myth images" or mythoses.

But it is like a time bubble, too, for the mythoses are creatures of the collective unconscious going back to the Norman Invasion (like Hood) or the Saxons (like Arthur), or to events of the Stone Age and the retreat of ice that no historian outside could catch a glimpse of. Most of all, though, it is *The Wildwood* itself, a potent image in the English psyche, but most essentially not an image: just something of its own, not managed, not possessed.

Through this classic yet original setting, Steven Raxley pursues his degenereating brother Christian, trying to save the girl made from the wild, Guinevere, haunted in his turn by their grandfather, the Turgid man from the stone grave, and the rest of British history made flesh. His story too will become myth, as it filters out through the confusion barriers round the wood and back into the racial mind: character blur into mythos, as human into natural and contemporary into past.

Mythago Wood is a haunting book, written carefully but compulsively, which shows the continuing vitality of the tradition of English pastoral

fantasy, maybe this country's most distinctive current literary mode.

Outside fantasy, science fiction shows every sign of reverting to the absurd, and one can see why. Robert Silverberg's *The Conquest of the Earth* (Collins, £8.95) is a clutch of stories written mostly for Omni, Playboy and Penthouse and determined exactly by that readership: beneath dynamic, successful, sexy exteriors they conceal deep nervousness, frenetic boredom. Did I pick the right genre-shaping? Will they admit me if I go berserk? What's the right time to be at just now?

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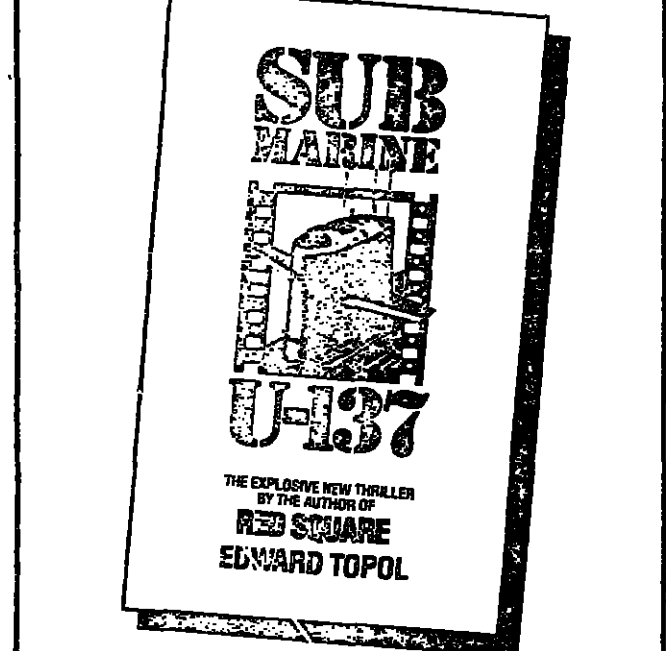
Tom Shippey

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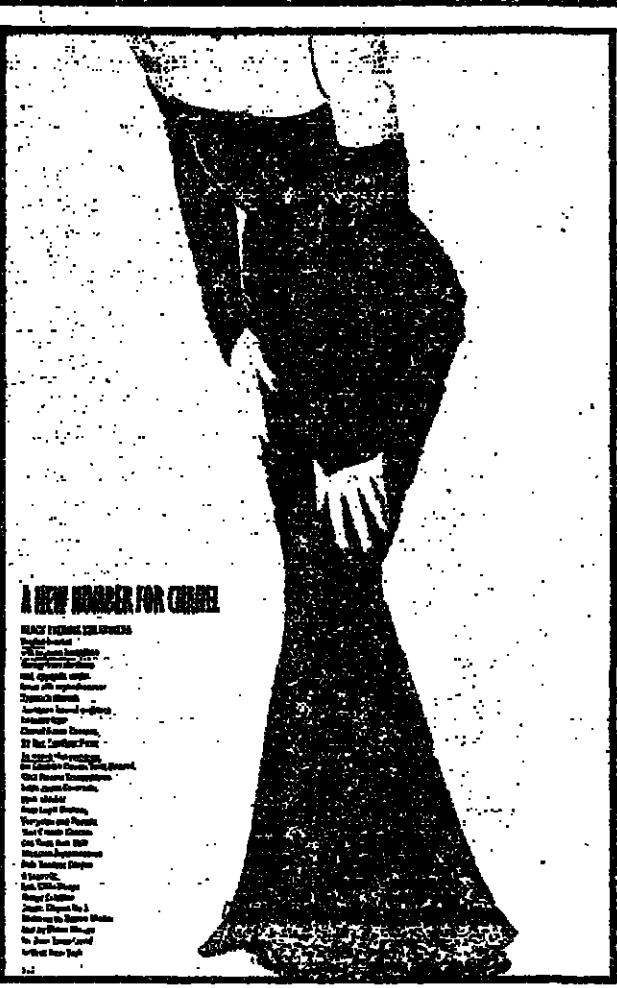
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Dead flowers in an English country garden — picture by Bruce Weber

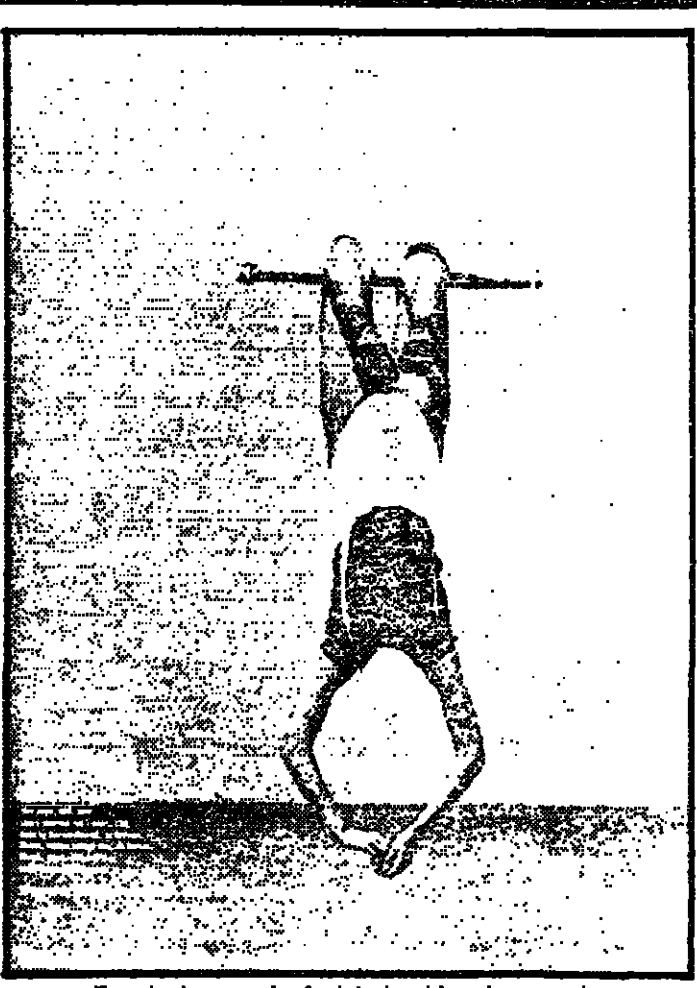


A NEW MONROE FOR CLOUTIER

After Monroe, the renaissance of haute couture and bugle beads — picture by Bruce Weber



Body language: thirties naturism meets eighties leanness — picture by Bruce Weber



Exercise boom and a fresh look, with a circus touch, at beachwear — picture by Patrick Demarchelier

Of Conde Nast's international family of Vogue magazines, the British version is seen as the most creative. In the last of her series on the stylists whose pictures shape fashion, Brenda Polan describes the influence of the magazine's fashion director, Grace Coddington

The designers' designer

THE Paris-based designer, Karl Lagerfeld, has no doubts about Grace Coddington. "I think she is a genius," he says. "Each season I wait to see what she will do with my clothes and, when I see, there is always something to learn. It is very stimulating for a designer to be shown new potentials in his own work."

Grace, of course, dismisses the genius label with the twitch of a fine eyebrow. It's not a bashful show of modesty; it is an expression of that dislike of extravagance and glib overstatement which is part of her personality and which is apparent in her work. "My instinct is to simplify," she says. "I cannot pile on the leg warmers, the bits and pieces, the jewellery and eccentric decorative pieces in the way Caroline Baker can. She does it brilliantly, but the fashion magazines are full of pictures where stylists, fashion editors, have tried to do the same and ended up with a mess."

"They seem to think that that is what a fashion editor does. They are wrong. Being a fashion editor is editing it down, not piling it on. Which does not mean that I don't like having a bit of fun with the pictures. For the English-woman pictures in December Vogue, I wanted a Bloomsbury/Vita Sackville-West mood, the Englishwoman in her beloved late-autumn garden, and the idea of gardening the models with dead flowers arose during discussions with the photographer and the hair stylist. I think they make rather lyrical pictures, strong images — and no one could imagine Vogue was advertising dead flowers as the latest accessory."

Grace was born in North Wales, the second daughter of a couple who ran a hotel (her own not quite serious dream

is to quit the fashion world one day to run a country house hotel). Convent school educated, she left home at 17 to work as an au pair in Manchester and then quickly moved on to London with the vague ambition of becoming a model.

She took a job in a coffee bar, the Stock Pot in Basil Street, in order to pay her way through a course at the Cherry Marshall model school, and entered a Vogue model competition. Before the results were announced (she won) she had already done her first set of pictures with Norman Parkinson. Although a car crash a year later put her out of action for 18 months (her face had been badly injured and required plastic surgery) she was to become one of the world's top models. "I was not famous like Jean Shrimpton, but I was one of the few models who was always in work. Unfortunately, it was always editorial work, not advertising, so I never got rich."

Models have short professional lives and there always comes a point, sooner rather than later, when they have to plan a second career. "I had never thought ahead," says Grace. "I had always rather assumed that I would get married and be terribly rich. In 1968 I had just returned from living in France, having split up with my boy friend, and I was pretty miserable. I started to go out with Michael Chow and then Bea Miller offered me a job as a junior editor at Vogue."

"It was confusing going to Vogue. As a model I knew that you went to a studio or off on



Grace Coddington — picture by Bruce Weber

location and these clothes were there and someone had chosen them and you did your best for them. But I had never realised how much work there was behind the scenes. The editor's job is not just a matter of making the model look nice — which is often how the model perceives it; the editor is also a travel agent and nanny, a provider of refreshments, comfort, and reassurance."

In addition, the way she looked, combined with an apparently sleek composure, overcame many of the people she had to work with. "A lot of people," she remembers, "were quite intimidated by me; some people found me really scary. My appearance had something to do with it. In the sixties, models dressed the part. I was terribly fashion conscious and never went out unless I was thoroughly dressed up and properly made up."

Today her personal style is as ruthlessly edited and pared down as her professional style. She finds it difficult to wear anything which is not designed by Azzedine Alaïa; she had, she said, worn a shirt the day before and had felt strangely "lumpy" all day. "My personal taste in clothes is usually pretty body-bugging; I don't like to disguise the fact that the body is body-shaped. I believe that if you get into a loose, floppy dress, your body will soon get loose and floppy, and I think it is important not to be fat."

"I love eating so most of the time I eat normally, but when it is necessary, I go on a drastic, non-allergy diet eating nothing but apples and

bananas and drinking only herb tea. If you travel a lot, you have to be careful about your health and you do have to learn to trust your body. If you start craving a lot of sugar and chocolate, it is probably because your body needs the energy."

If Grace Coddington has attracted any criticism, it is not for the quality of her work but for what certain sections of the British fashion industry have, with a touch of paranoia, defined as a kind of xenophilia. British Vogue, they argue, is highly regarded throughout the world; it should give more support to the British industry. The truth is that Coddington refuses absolutely to apply different standards or to compromise for the sake of patriotism.

"I am very critical of clothes," she says. "If a garment does not work 100 per cent, I will not use it. I will not shoot a garment which looks good at the front but peculiar or boring at the back. There is no cheating with bulldog clips or double-sided Sellotape on my fittings, either. I do not like making clothes lie, by changing their shape or otherwise doctoring them to fit my ideas. They either work or they don't."

She was among the first to champion the American style of dress which emerged at the end of the seventies. "Calvin Klein could have had me in mind when he put his collections together. I loved the sparseness of his clothes and I felt incredibly comfortable in them. There was, at that time, a refreshing sense of control and consistency to American collections because the

'designers' are not really designers but editors. They don't pile on the ideas in indiscriminate profusion. They refine a look."

She now oversees the work of a total of 11 editors and junior editors on Vogue. She may be amazed that anyone was ever intimidated by her, but the young women who work for her still refer to her in tones at once affectionate, respectful and, I am afraid, awed. The world holds few greater joys than that of a PR who has succeeded in capturing Coddington's attention for her product. She is, in her quiet, reserved way, the most powerful stylist/fashion editor on the British scene, if not the international one.

She seems unaware of the power. Her thoughts are on the pleasure. "Among fashion editors," she says, "I have the best job in the world. All jobs have their drawbacks and mine are the logistics of arranging a sitting and the strain of being the peace-maker between warring egos, the focus of much creative temperament. But within limits I have great creative freedom and the enormous satisfaction of seeing ideas become pictures on a page. Pictures that people talk about."

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A POINT OF clarification: the sweater kit featured in last week's Style File is a single shade garment and comes in a choice of three colours (not a combination as some readers have inferred). They are black, bright pink, or bright sea green.

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Tom Shippey

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Too many people are trying to make too much capital out of obesity, suggests Clare Moynihan

Outside every fatty there's a host of predators trying to work their way in

OBESITY has become an epidemic. Not only are we warned that fat may incur health risks but a fear of fat is known to evoke gross psychological and social disturbance. To be obese is to be a social outcast in childhood and adult life.

The intensity of shame may

only be understood by recognising the extreme ostracism and hatred to which fat children are subjected. They are described by "normal" children as cheats, dirty, sloppy, mean, ugly, and stupid. The impact this has on the child is probably irreversible, leading to self hatred, anxiety, and self doubt in anyone who is even moderately overweight. Discrimination is exercised by teachers and college interviewers against obese adolescents, affecting female applicants more severely than males.

Overweight girls, with their obsessive concern about body fat, may be compared to chronic victims of racial prejudice and anti-semitism. Every woman is aware of the social pressures to conform to a lean image relentlessly portrayed by the media.

A recent report by the Royal College of Physicians suggested that 30 per cent of the British population is overweight. Mr John Patten, the Health Secretary, has said that "many, including young people, are overweight and might need to take action to reduce weight and avoid ill health." The definition of overweight does not, however, just include the grossly fat. Something called "mild to moderate obesity" has appeared this century in medical and lay literature, reinforcing the belief that obesity has become an epidemic and a major health problem in Western society.

There are, however, difficulties in studying and assessing human body fat. At what point does somebody become dangerously fat? The definition of obesity in adults is

currently based on data accrued by American insurance companies. The weight range for each height category which is associated with the lowest mortality rate in an insured population is taken as the standard. Individuals who are 10 per cent more than the standard are considered to be overweight; to be more than 20 per cent is to be obese, and it is at this point that there is said to be a 31 per cent greater mortality risk than for those of "normal" size.

But until the turn of the century, thin people were at risk of dying. Because of the high prevalence of TB, life insurance companies were insisting that they pay higher premiums. As TB became curable and then almost extinct, the insurance companies found that their death claims were indicating higher mortality among their heaviest policy holders, and extra premiums could be legitimately charged. But those who provide insurance companies with evidence are a self-selected group, and insurance policies do not necessarily provide accurate information about the insured. It is normal for insurance applicants not to disclose any extra risks he or she may know of or suspect, and many people "rated" because of overweight may be bad risks in other respects unknown to insurance companies.

During the late 1930s when American life insurance companies were re-considering their definitions of what was "ideal," it was decided to use the weight of individuals at 25 years. But in most human populations, individuals go

on increasing their weight until they are about 50. Systematic revisions have been made by insurance companies, bringing "ideals" down for women. A 1926 weight chart indicates a 5ft 4in woman with a weight of 9st 3lb as being average between the ages of 25 and 29 (this chart allows for age difference). Today the ideal weight for women of the same height is 8st 8lb regardless of age. The widely used standard definition used today by clinicians and lay people alike puts the average man at the edge of obesity while the average woman is obese. Research at the time the new insurance company recommendations were made, did not support this downward trend. Data suggested instead that "ideal" standard weights should have been raised. It does look as though the epidemic of obesity has been created largely by the lowering of "ideals."

Population studies have shown that insurance company predictions have usually not been confirmed. Lowest mortality rates have been shown to be associated with average weights for sex and age consistently greater than any existing standards for "ideal." The relationship between mortality rates and relative body weight appears to be U-shaped: individuals who are significantly below or above average weights appear to be at greatest risk. Could it be that our images of "ideal" body weight reflects a cultural bias which serves certain interests other than our own? There exists a thriving industry based on fear of fatness: included are

the life insurers, the low calorie recipes and artificial sweeteners in the food market, drug manufacturers who control our appetites, and the weight specialists who, knowing that therapy of any kind is by and large a useless exercise, will nevertheless dole out expensive treatments to anxious "patients." They are not simply dealing with the "massively obese" but with the mild to moderately obese who, as they exceed curious "ideal standards," make up the bulk of those who seek therapy.

These contradictions are seldom given a public airing. Instead, we are told that obesity lies in the individual's over-indulgence and/or sloth. But evidence shows that obese people do not, on average, eat more than anyone else and may eat less.

Recent surveys of eating patterns and styles have produced no evidence that the obese differ from the lean in the timing, duration, speed of consumption, or consumption of meals. As greediness does not cause obesity, it has been suggested that fat people must be physically less active and therefore lazy. While some studies have shown this to be so, as many find no difference. Any evidence that supports the inactivity theory is in itself spurious since it relates to people who are already fat. Inactivity may lend itself to the perpetuation of obesity but not to its cause. There is no known cause of overweight and, with the exception of treatments more dangerous than obesity itself, there is no known cure.

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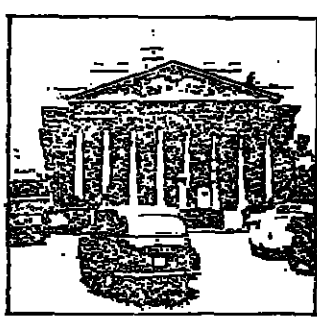
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Where gilts are concerned, it is better to travel hopefully than to arrive



NOTEBOOK

Edited by
Hamish McRae

THE FOREIGN exchange markets quietened down yesterday, and there is no immediate reason to suspect that the pound's plunge will be resumed. Indeed, the view

of Mrs Thatcher on Woman's Hour yesterday that sterling was undervalued at a view consistent with the purchasing power parity calculations on the opposite page — may even encourage the market to perk up a bit. If that were so, it would be the first occasion that an excellent radio programme has been a significant factor in the arcane world of foreign exchange. Forget about Reuters and Teletext: just tune into Woman's Hour.

Today, though the fun will be in the gilt market. We will get the PSBR figures for December and the market would be sensible to expect them to be stinkers. The Treasury has been aware of an unexpectedly adverse trend in public spending for a few weeks now and Mr Lawson's recent comments on the public sector's finances suggest that these figures will be at the worst end of the expected range. The financial year still has

two-and-a-half months to run and anyway, they always seem to get the number hopelessly wrong until at least a couple of months after the end of the financial year. But that will not deter the gurus of the gilt market from making their calculations down to the second decimal point, and it seems sensible to expect that the whole range of forecasts will shift upwards. An outcome of well over £10 billion is clearly by no means impossible.

Now the PSBR is such an artificial figure that in an economic sense it does not matter much what it is. It is not where you are that matters; it is how you get there. But it would be helpful to the market — equity markets as well as gilts — to be reminded of the Government's increased funding needs. It is interesting to see just how buoyant equities were yesterday once the spectre of a third round of base rate rises exceeded.

Gilts were much more muted, but they are first in the firing line.

Compromise

THE Bank of England is absolutely right to delay the unwrapping of its proposal for the new, post big bang, gilt market, as the Stock Exchange decision on membership will be absolutely crucial to all potential primary market dealers. The exchange's council has reached an outline agreement on what it sees as a fair compromise between the interests of the large broking firms (now to a greater or lesser extent part of financial conglomerates) and the smaller firms intent on rebellion.

But it makes sense to give both present and potential members the opportunity to study the full implications of the proposal. While every new conglomerate or partnership has said it intends to

make a market in gilts, it stretches credibility that all these potential players will be able to last the course.

In fact the Bank does not have a set view on how the new gilt market must develop. What it feels it must do is to set out a framework for day one after the big bang. The market itself will then gradually sort itself out into sheep and goats. What the Bank has to do is to make sure that potential sheep are given the opportunity to be sheep (so to speak) and not classified as goats from the start. That is why the conditions for primary dealerships will have to be drawn to include all the potential serious players. Whether in the end that strategy will be the most appropriate one for the rumoured 80 houses which have expressed interest is very doubtful. Indeed, if a New York experience is anything to go by we will be lucky if we end up with a dozen. And of course, inter-

broker-dealer status may prove more profitable.

Finally, it is worth adding that it is still not inevitable that the new gilt market will end up inside the Stock Exchange. It will start there, but largely for reasons of investor protection rather than any logical market rationale.

Helpful move

THE US Treasury Under-Secretary, Mr Beryl Sprinkel, is likely to be shuffled aside to the post of chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, perhaps as soon as the end of the week. Mr Sprinkel is a stout opponent of intervention in international exchange markets to correct currency fluctuations, and has tangled with his boss, Donald Regan, on the issue.

Accordingly, he takes a dim view of international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Mr Sprinkel's move to the CEA would neatly dovetail recent policy changes. It would probably make it easier for the new Treasury Secretary, James Baker, to implement what are expected to be pragmatic policies to bring down the budget deficit. At the same time, Mr Sprinkel's departure for the CEA will certainly be an improvement as far as the Administration is concerned, over his predecessor, Martin Feldstein.

Mr Sprinkel is unlikely to be as much of an embarrassment as Mr Feldstein, who constantly trumpeted on about the importance of the deficit and the need to raise taxes. At one point last year, Mr Regan was so incensed at Mr Feldstein and the CEA's annual report to the President that he told a congressional committee to throw it away. The CEA had said that the Administration could not grow its way out of the deficit.

After Mr Feldstein's

return to Harvard University last summer, Mr Sprinkel became senior economic spokesman. Along with other Administration officials, he is a vocal critic of the Federal Reserve's anti-inflationary, tight monetary policies. He has made it clear that a second Reagan Administration would maintain pressure on the Fed to achieve moderate and stable growth in the money supply. He also believes that tax increases would constitute a "anti-growth, anti-opportunity policy."

But on international economic policy he has had punches with others in the Administration because of his doctrinaire views on this field. At the end of the year, Mr Sprinkel almost prevented Mr Regan from convincing his European colleagues that he could keep an open mind on the value of intervention to stabilise currency markets.

Purchasing power of wages rises by 3½ pc

Earnings keep ahead of price increases

By Christopher Huhne,
Economics Editor

Earnings kept well ahead of prices in the year to November so that most employees had a 3½ per cent increase in the purchasing power of their pay after allowing for tax cuts and inflation, government figures showed yesterday.

And separate Department of Employment figures suggested that the number of jobs in the economy grew by 48,000 in the three months to September last year, bringing the total number of net new jobs over the year to 226,000.

The increase in employment went side by side with a rise in unemployment of 113,000, partly because of an increase in the working age population (estimated at 200,000 in 1984) and partly because most new jobs seem to have been taken by unemployed people who were not previously included

in the government's count, because they were not entitled to benefits.

The underlying increase in earnings in the year to November is put at 7½ per cent for the fifth month running, slightly higher than the actual increase of 6.6 per cent because of the coal and car industry disputes and delayed settlements for local authority white collar workers.

There is thus little sign of pay pressures abating despite the continued rise in both unemployment and real incomes for those in work, though officials said that the increase in overtime working could account for a ½ per cent rise in earnings.

With other elements of drift such as bonus payments, the earnings figures would be consistent with an increase in underlying basic settlements of around 5½-6 per cent. Less

than 10 per cent of the workforce settles between August and December, with a quarter now due between January and March, officials said.

The 7½ per cent rise in underlying earnings, which most employees are not affected by disputes are probably getting, compares with a 4.9 per cent rise in retail prices in the year to November and with a 3.7 per cent rise in the tax and price index which also takes account of budget tax cuts in March.

In manufacturing industry the rise in earnings is put at 8.5 per cent, a ½ per cent increase in overtime hours worked over the year more than offset a small rise in short-time working compared with November, 1983. The average monthly increase in manufacturing employment in the three months to November was 6,000, compared with a fall of 5,000 in the three months to August.

Call on state to gear up QE2

By Andrew Cornelius

TRAFALGAR House is seeking government grant and loan aid to help meet the estimated £30 million plus costs of re-engineering the group's troublesome flagship QE2.

Sir Nigel Brookes said yesterday that he is "keen" to re-engineer the QE2 which has been dogged by engine failure in recent years. Trafalgar has asked re-engineering the QE2 with new diesel/electric engines several times in the past two years, but has so far failed to come up with a deal which makes "economic sense."

Three new engines would prolong the life of the QE2 for 15 years beyond the ten year anticipated lifespan of the vessel at present. They would also help cut the QE2's huge fuel bill, which eats into profits.

Sir Nigel is attempting to persuade the Government that it should provide either grant aid, or cheap finance, because of the strategic importance of the vessel. Trafalgar has stressed that vital role played by the QE2 in the Falklands conflict, and the problems which would be caused if the QE2 was not available in similar circumstances in the future.

Comard, Trafalgar's cruise subsidiary, caused a storm of controversy when it asked manufacturers in Germany and Holland to negotiate for the engine contract.

But Sir Nigel repeated his "dismay" about the performance of British yards when asked about the late delivery of the replacement for the Atlantic Conveyor which was delivered six months late by the British Swan Hunter yard.

We were not surprised that it was late," he said. "That is as candid as I can be."

Trafalgar was persuaded to build the ship in Britain by the Government and British Shipbuilders who subsidised the cost of the vessel to bring it in line with the prices offered by Japanese yards. Negotiations will now begin with British Shipbuilders to arrange compensation for the late delivery.

Shares rally as settled pound calms market

By our Economics staff

The London stock market staged a convincing and broad recovery yesterday which added 19.5 points to the FT 30 share index to leave it at 861.3, barely more than a point short of last Thursday's level before the first of the recent rises in bank interest rates.

The stability of sterling, which closed 0.1 cents down at \$1.1195 leaving the trade weighted index unchanged on the day at 71.3, encouraged quiet money markets and hopes that the March budget could be the occasion for interest rate declines.

The money markets reflected the calmness of the pound, with the key three month interbank bill rate at 12½, a figure which was said to be consistent with the present 13 per cent bank base rates.

Foreign exchange dealers, however, said that the calmness of the pound reflected uncertainty about the outcome of the meeting of the group of five big countries' finance ministers in Washington, and some analysts warned that it was too early to be confident that the

pound's fall had been checked.

Today's public sector borrowing requirement figures are keenly awaited for any signs of a further overshooting of the Government's £8.5 billion target for the financial year.

The Confederation of British Industry, at its monthly council meeting yesterday, reiterated support for the Government's action on Monday in introducing the 12 per cent Minimum Lending Rate, arguing that the move was preferable to jeopardising inflation targets by allowing the value of sterling to fall further.

Such is the sensitivity of interest rates that National Savings has alerted holders of a certificate which matures next month to the advantages of saving just now. The first certificate went on sale on February 4 five years ago, is the all time best seller for National Savings. If most of the certificates bought in February 1980 are cashed in, National Savings could lose £500 million just as the Department is coming close to achieving the financial year's £3 billion target.

Nedo attacks UK hi-tech failings

By Peter Large,

Technology Correspondent

OSIED management and unions in traditional industries are again blamed today for Britain's failure to modernise production at the rate of our competitors.

The latest attack — from a working party of the National Economic Development Council — makes the point that some of the world's leading excellence in co-ordinated automation can be found in Britain, and those consultancy and computer services are used frequently by American manufacturers to make them more competitive than British industry.

The report is the result of a tour of the "iron triangle" between New York, Toronto, and Philadelphia, made by one manager and two shop stewards from the heavy electrical machinery business, plus two Nedo officials. They do not

use the label "ossified" but it summarises their judgments.

They say that American firms are giving "total commitment" to the "revolutionary changes" of computer integrated manufacturing.

(That means not just automating production but building a computer network extending from design of products, through manufacturing, to management reporting and future planning.)

Their report then complains that British management has played "a less formative role" in the training that is crucial for modernisation. Britain also lacks a "positive relationship" between unions and management in planning for change.

The problem lies in position appoint board-level teams to manage an overall strategy, involving full consultation with staff and training programmes at all levels.

Names 'should pay more'

By Mary Brasier

Members of Lloyd's should be asked to put up more money as a condition of joining the insurance market, according to a report presented to the ruling council this week. A 45 per cent increase in the funds that names are obliged to deposit with Lloyd's should start underwriting is the key recommendation.

The report, which at this stage is intended as a discussion document, suggests that deposits be lifted to 28 per cent of a names gross overall premium limit. Current practice is to demand that names lodge with Lloyd's liquid or near liquid assets related to the premium limit after deducting reinsurance.

The effect of the proposal would be to increase the deposit required of a member writing £200,000 of business from £50,000 to £72,800. If it is adopted, more than 18,000 names would collectively have to find over £250 million.

More than 6,500 members are already in breach of current deposit requirements and the report says the council should write into the new rules by 1987. Lloyd's remains committed to the principle of unlimited liability and the means test requiring members to show wealth of at least £100,000 would be unchanged. For wealthier names, the maximum premium limit, raised to £800,000 this month, would be able to cover £100 million of business.

The working party has reported at a time when the market's ruling authorities believe capacity should be increased, both in real terms and to offset the fall of sterling against the dollar. The report also suggests that Lloyd's, which does 70 per cent of its business in dollars, should move to a dollar-based institution.

Methods of increasing overseas membership should be investigated, it adds, including ways of holding deposits in the US and allowing foreign securities and currencies as part of a member's deposit.

By the operator, BP, to expand greatly the reservoir and scope of drilling.

But Premier Consolidated, which belongs to the consortium which bought out British Gas's half of the Wyth Farm offshore oil discovery in Dorset.

The cash call comes only days after the Department of Environment warned that it was tightening its rules on how oil companies could exploit discoveries on land in the UK. Wyth Farm, the largest offshore oil field in Britain, is located in an environmentally sensitive area and pressure groups are resisting attempts

Abbey Life set for flotation

By Mary Brasier

Abbey Life, one of the UK's top ten life assurance companies is likely to be floated on the London Stock Exchange later this year. Abbey's owners, the giant ITT Corporation of the US, said yesterday that they want to sell a minority stake in the company to UK investors.

ITT has asked merchant bank S. G. Warburg and accountants Ernst & Whinney to prepare a report on the feasibility of a sale in the next few weeks. According to Abbey chairman Michael Hepher a public offer for sale, if agreed could be set in motion immediately.

ITT will retain control through a majority shareholding but sees a flotation as the best way both to raise cash and establish a value for the remainder of its

investment. "It is critical to ITT's strategy to have a widely based share ownership so that they have a constant measure of how much the company is worth. The route of a company buy-out is not attractive," said Mr Hepher.

The go-ahead for floating Abbey Life will depend on external factors such as the current writing conditions and a decision on how much of the group is offered to the public is likely to be deferred until the last minute.

Abbey Life was the brainchild of Mark Weinberg, who introduced unit-linked life assurance to Britain with Abbey in 1962. After Abbey Life was taken over by ITT, Mr Weinberg left to found rival Hambro Life in 1970 backed by the merchant bankers at Hambro. Hambro Life grew rapidly to overtake Abbey Life as Britain's biggest unit-linked life assurance company.

It is difficult to see what market valuation should be put on Abbey Life. Hambro Life was recently sold to the tobacco group BAT for \$664 million. A comparison of the size of the two businesses would suggest a valuation for Abbey Life approaching £500 million, but it is probable that Hambro Life would carry a premium over Abbey Life because of the role of Mr Weinberg himself, and because of its spectacular growth record. That would suggest a valuation more in the £300-£400 million range.

Mark Weinberg

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Maxwell spells out reasons for Fleet sale

By Andrew Cornelius and Maggie Brown

Mr Robert Maxwell decided to sell his 15 per cent stake in Fleet Holdings, the Express Newspapers group, after receiving a letter from Fleet asking about the ultimate ownership of the Maxwell business empire, it was claimed yesterday.

Details of a conversation between the two newspaper proprietors in which Mr Maxwell explained his decision to sell the Fleet share stake to United Newspapers for £30 million, were revealed yesterday by Lord Matthews, Fleet's chairman.

Lord Matthews claimed that Mr Maxwell, the publisher of Mirror Group Newspapers, cited the letter as one of the reasons for selling the shares, during a telephone conversation with him on Tuesday.

"We did send a letter which we said to all our shareholders which he (Mr Maxwell) mentioned as one of the reasons he sold the shares,"

Lord Matthews said. "We ask who are the beneficial owners of the shares," he said.

John Waddington, when fighting off an unwelcome takeover bid from Mr Maxwell's BPCC, raised questions about the mysterious Pergamon Holding Foundation, in Liechtenstein, which ultimately owns the £700 million Maxwell empire, including Mirror Group.

Last night Mr Maxwell was not available to comment on his conversation with Lord Matthews.

Lord Matthews said that he was "slightly disappointed" that Mr Maxwell had not spoken to him about selling the shares until the deal had been concluded with United Newspapers.

As speculation grew in the City that United Newspapers had bought the Fleet stake as a prelude to making a full takeover bid Lord Matthews said that he doubted whether United had the resources to make a bid at the present time.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chamber's warning

RISE in earnings from British investments in overseas countries are unlikely to offset the decline in home-based manufacturing industry, the London Chamber of Commerce has warned.

Britain's deficit on manufactured goods grew to a loss of £5.98 billion in the first 11 months of 1984, a rise of £1 billion on the 1983 deficit, the first since the Industrial Revolution.

In evidence to the Lords committee on overseas trade, the Chamber says Britain is facing greater problems paying her way in the world because of the decline in net exports of manufacturing.

DUNLOP's new chairman, Sir Michael Edwards, and two co-directors were criticised yesterday for taking a record-breaking share option deal as their price for attempting to rescue the tyre company. Mr Anthony Beaumont Dark MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, described the directors' deal, which was revealed with Dunlop's financial reconstruction, as "a disgrace."

It will look to most people as though it is heads they win, tails everybody else loses."

SWISS banks holding just under 3 per cent of Rover's Mackintosh were believed to have been behind an £18 million placing of shares in the sweets group yesterday.

The Rowntree board was still in the dark last night over the change in ownership of five million shares placed with City institutions.

Clausen pleads to UK

By Victor Keegan

Britain is unlikely to make a direct contribution to the World Bank's \$1 billion fund to help sub-Saharan Africa despite pledges of \$800 million by other countries.

Mr Tom Clausen, president of the Washington-based World Bank, flew into London yesterday for a last ditch attempt to persuade Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to contribute to the fund which is to be launched after a special meeting in Paris on January 31.

A spokesman for the FO said after the meeting that no decision had yet been reached

on the nature of the UK contribution. However, it is thought to be unlikely that Britain would become a direct participant because of the Government's desire to reduce borrowing.

The Government may juggle with its existing Budget to channel some money in the form of bilateral aid (tied to buying UK goods) but this will fall considerably short of the \$40 million to \$50 million a year of untied aid the World Bank is looking for.

Italy, Holland, the Nordic countries and a number of Middle East countries have already agreed to contribute.

Premier calls for £16m

By James Eirichman

Premier Consolidated, the independent UK oil company, asked shareholders for £16.3 million yesterday to help fund its portion of the Wyth Farm offshore oil discovery in Dorset.

The cash call comes only days after the Department of Environment warned that it was tightening its rules on how oil companies could exploit discoveries on land in the UK.

Wyth Farm, the largest offshore oil field in Britain, is located in an environmentally sensitive area and pressure groups are resisting attempts

by the operator, BP, to expand greatly the reservoir and scope of drilling.

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- * New products being well received in home and export markets.
- * Growth continuing strongly in current year.

Annual Report from The Secretary, Tace plc, Essex Hall, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JD



Investors are slow to plug into cable

By Dennis Barker

JON DAVEY (left), whose appointment as the first director general of the newly-formed Cable Authority was announced yesterday, predicted that this year would be a much better one for the cable industry than 1984.

At present only one of the 11 companies granted a pilot cable television franchise by the government, before the setting up of the authority, is in operation. Some of the others have found it difficult to attract finance and one at Windsor — has put its plans in cold storage for six months.

But Mr Davey, the former Home Office official who has dealt with cable matters since the government sanctioned the system, said this was an expression of the natural caution about any

new field of investment in the City.

He added: "The cable industry is still enthusiastic. The problem lies in persuading people in the City, who are not committed in the same way to cable, that this is a good investment. We are not in this country as adventurous in providing venture capital as in some other countries, but I think that can be turned round."

Mr Davey, who will be the executive head of the new regulatory body for cable, under the chairman, Mr Richard Burton, said it would not take very much to persuade the City to change its perception of cable. "I think that the mere fact that we now have an authority, and the authority is engineering some new activity in the cable world, is going to have an effect on confidence and interest in the industry," he said.

Mr Davey said the new authority — whose membership will not be completed for a number of weeks — would have to take a number of ways in which the cable industry could be helped and if necessary put these to the Government.

Not all of the 40 organisations approached by the authority to see if they were interested in bidding for the next round of five new franchises have yet submitted applications, but the deadline was the end of January and he had expected that applications would come in at the last minute. Only two other companies, apart from those approached, had asked the authority for details.

The Department of Trade, which regulates the technological standards of cable as the authority regulates programming, has favoured the most sophisticated technology as a "showcase" but many

of the existing franchise holders now want to be cheaper systems.

Mr Davey said the authority would not try to persuade the DTI to drop its technological standards, but predicted that in the future, unlike for the pilot round of 11 franchises, the "particular technology favoured by applicants will be only one of the factors taken into account, instead of the main one."

It was already clear, said Mr Davey, that new companies coming into the business, such as Shaw Cable and National Tele-Cable management, would want an interest in several companies rather than in only one locally.

It is hoped that the authority will be complete and in its own offices by the time the new round of franchises are considered in April.



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Further particulars can be obtained from the University Secretary, University of Stirling, Stirling FK9 4LA, telephone 0876 7071, ext. 2316, with whom applications should be lodged by February 11, 1985.

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APPOINTMENTS

In The Guardian on Wednesdays

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David Frost

Paris match put back

RUGBY UNION

THE ALMOST inevitable decision to postpone Saturday's France-Wales match finally came yesterday after the pitch at the Parc des Princes was found to be frozen to a depth of seven inches and after efforts to defrost it had predictably failed.

The game will now be played on March 30 which, considering that France and Wales are generally considered to be the two strongest teams, could mean that the vital match of the Championship will now be played at the end rather than the beginning of the season.

The postponement could also be the cruellest of luck for David Waller, the 27-year-old Welsh scrum-half, who is recovering from the injury he sustained in the match against Gloucester.

Waller had been chosen to win his first cap in Paris. By the time of Wales's next game against England at Cardiff on February 16, Norster is expected to have recovered from his broken jaw.

Most Welshmen will be pleased that the postponement of Saturday's match means that the formidable Norster will probably be available for the whole of Wales's four-match Championship campaign. On the other hand by March 30 the French will probably be able to field a fully fit Jean-Luc Joliet at No. 8 and the French are usually at their happiest on the dry grounds at the end of the season when a little greenness appears on the plane trees in the grounds.

The postponement could indirectly help England for their visit on February 16 to Cardiff where they have not won since 1963. Wales have not got a match on the second international Saturday of the Championship since February 2, and will therefore not take the field in a Championship match before they meet England. The English meanwhile will have played twice this year (the three times if you include the Romania match of January 5) and these games will allow England's largely untapped side the opportunity to find their feet.

March 30 was the first available date on which the postponed France-Wales match could reasonably be played. The Ray French saga appears to be on its way towards a satisfactory conclusion, with the RFU trying to change the regulations so that teachers who are or have been Rugby League players can take a full part in the coaching and administration of schools Rugby Union.

Earlier this season French, who played Rugby Union for England before playing Rugby League for Great Britain, was told he could no longer belong to the Leicestershire Schools Committee on which he had sat for

played could reasonably be played. The schedule for this season's 10 Championship games is for them to be played on five international Saturdays two weeks apart. No country would willingly play internationals on consecutive weekends so that March 30, two weeks after the last scheduled international Saturday, was the obvious date.

This year's freeze-up may hasten the move to have the whole Championship switched to later in the season when the likelihood of fair weather is greater. Such a switch would benefit the Championship itself, and it would also relieve the domestic congestion in the middle of the Scottish and English seasons in particular.

The circumstances of the postponement have caused friction between the French Rugby Federation and the Municipality of Paris, who own and operate the ground. The RFU claim they warned the Municipality several times, beginning in the early days of this month, that the pitch should be covered.

Nothing was done, however, until Tuesday of this week when rain fell on a pitch already frozen to a depth of six inches.

The secretary of the RFU, Jean-Louis Boujard, yesterday issued a statement saying: "The municipal authorities and the administration of the Parc des Princes have not perhaps foreseen everything. As a result we have been somewhat penalised."

The RFU apologises to rugby supporters and emphasises that, despite the numerous warnings issued since January 7 to the authorities at the Parc des Princes, nothing was done until too late.

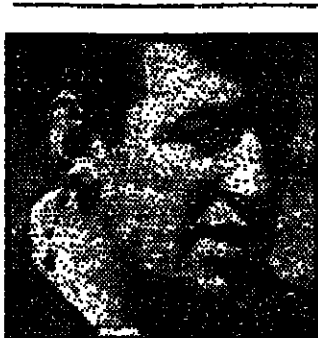
One problem associated with the postponement is that the new date, March 30, falls in a very busy tourist period, the weekend before Easter, and rugby supporters are likely to find it a great difficulty in finding accommodation in Paris at that time.

The postponement came too late for a party of 45 Welsh supporters who flew to Paris. Meanwhile three inches of snow are reported from Lansdowne Road where England open their Championship campaign against Ireland on Saturday. But the pitch has been covered to protect it against further snow or frost.

Clive Woodward has withdrawn from his position as one of England's six travelling reserves because of a badly bruised toe. His place will be taken by Huw Davies. There is an outside chance that Davies might even find himself playing at stand-off half for England since Rob Andrew has been suffering from a strained groin and Stuart Barnes has a sore knee.

David Frost

Doyle pulls the strings



Charles Edwards talks to Ireland's new coach Mick Doyle (above) as they prepare to meet England

AT IRISH squad training sessions, Mick Doyle's whistle dangles from a length of hairy twine from around his neck. He has been using the same idiosyncratic style since he took charge of his first international practice in September, a few weeks after being appointed national coach in succession to Willie John McBride, who served only one of the three years of office.

It's not that Doyle — or the Irish Rugby Football Union — can't afford a more conventional cord. "The twine won't let me change that length of twine now," says Doyle. "And I'm keeping it for good luck."

The more conservative Irish rugby followers think the coach and the new-look side he has helped put together, will need all the good fortune going. Doyle, they believe, may have given himself not only that piece of twine, but actual ropes enough of it to hang himself and his fellow-selectors by the end of the International Championship. The first trial is at Lansdowne Road on Saturday.

There's the matter of Tony Ward, for starters. The selection of Paul Dean, Ward's recent club-mate, at fly-half. And the lack of a specialist goalkicker, as well as the question of the pack's scrummaging strength.

BADMINTON

Richard Jago in Taiwan

Perry fit to resume

Nora Perry, twice a world gold medalist, takes a vital step here today towards ending a great career this season with more world championship medals.

After weeks of debilitating injuries Mrs Perry has just flown out to join the England group here in Taiwan for the second of the Pro-Kennex world tournaments, the Taipei Masters — with only five weeks left before the squad for the world championships in Calgary is to be named.

She will be attempting to recreate partnerships with the European champion, Gill Clark, and world mixed doubles champion, Thomas Kihlstrom, which have been badly disrupted recently. Neither Mrs Perry nor Miss Clark has been fully fit recently, while Mrs Perry is reluctant to leave his children behind to practise in England. However, the England manager, Ciro Cinghio's daughter Anna is currently acting as child minder.

Mrs Perry's biggest hurdles



ALL DOWN TO DEAN - Ireland are banking on the Irish stand-off to move the ball fast

Doyle, full of homespun Kerry zest and good humour, seems untroubled by these criticisms. When he took over, he was adamant the talent was there to replace Ollie Campbell, John O'Driscoll, Fergus Slattery and the other old soldiers of Ireland's so-called Dad's Army.

He has never deviated from that view. "As coach I will always pick a team, rather than a goalkicker," he says, in an oblique reference to the absence of Ward,



NORA PERRY... rejoining partners

will be the mainland Chinese who are unable to play here for political reasons but rejoin the grand prize in Tokyo next week.

In the meantime she may also be tested by her compatriot Gillian Gilks, playing in the women's doubles with Karen Beckman and in the mixed with Martin Dew. However, Mrs Perry will be top seeded in both events.

Top seed in the women's singles is Helen Troke, the European champion from Southampton and she is scheduled for a final on Sunday against the Danish, Kirsten Larsen of Denmark.

Morten Frost of Denmark and Liem Swie King from Indonesia are seeded to reach the men's singles final, but England's Nick Yates and Steve Baddeley, who both perished in Hong Kong last week are seeded to reach the last eight.

GOLF

David Davies

Torrance honoured

Sain Torrance yesterday became the last White Horse Whisky Personality of the Year. He was awarded the £2,500 cheque, given a memento, photographed sitting on a model white horse and, relatively rode off into a sadly setting sun.

The award, made principally by the Association of Golf Writers, has been one of the happier sponsorships in the sport, concentrating as it does on a man and not necessarily his achievements. The winners have been Brian Barnes, Sandy Lyle, and in 1983 Tony Jacklin illustrated perfectly the nature of the award. He won it in a year when Nick Faldo had won five European tour events, the committee feeling that Jacklin's efforts in inspiring the Ryder Cup team to near-victory in America were more in keeping with the spirit and the wording of the award.

Torrance became the 1984 winner not just because he was the leading Briton in the Sperry Order of Merit but because of his department throughout a career that is now beginning to match in rewards the talents he has long been known to possess. In the Spanish Open Torrance had a chance to win both the tournament and, eventually, the Order of Merit. He was paired with Bernhard Langer who was in the same position and it rapidly became clear that it was Langer, not Torrance, who was going to win.

As if to rub Torrance's nose into the Valencian dirt, Langer was round in an almost unbelievable 62 — a new course record by four shots, and although his aspirations were being shattered before his very eyes, Torrance encouraged and supported Langer the whole way round.

At the end there was a big smile, a handshake, an arm around the shoulders for the Scot, and in that moment Torrance was round in an almost unbelievable 62 — a new course record by four shots, and although his aspirations were being shattered before his very eyes, Torrance encouraged and supported Langer the whole way round.

The winner was French trained Pálme Musis, who beat Pebbles by a neck, with Raff another one and a half lengths away in third and Cataldi just a neck back in fourth. He was on level weight with the winner and third and was giving the filly Pebbles 3lb.

When we look at that running and the class of eleven that finished behind him, then he deserves to go on the short list, although one must admit, as a 200-1 chance at Newmarket, he surprised his connections with such a distinguished performance.

Vintage Toll, second in the race last year with 6st 4lb, has the same weight as the Ladbroke favourite at 16-1 but is 20-1 with the sponsors and Corals.

Trainer Jimmy Fitzgerald, who had his jumpers in tip-top shape before the freeze-up, considers the five-year-old reasonably treated and says that

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Matthew Engel in Madras

Top class by any standard

CRICKET

"AH, YES," I hear you say now that the initial euphoria of hearing the score has worn off and sitting second thoughts are setting in. "Well, so what? It was only against India. Marshall wasn't playing, was he? Garner wasn't playing... Let's see them make 611 for five against the West Indies, then we'll believe they can bat. I saw Gattling and Fowler bat last summer — a different story then, all right..."

One of the former England players now in Madras has already been heard talking along these lines, with the added jibe that the runs should have been scored more quickly. I think that is too harsh. The great totals of history have never been made against attacks that were bowling well at the time. The Indian attack that began the England innings was fit, competent and well-balanced. However ragged it might have looked by Tuesday afternoon.

The best thing England could have done in the past two days was to pile up 600 runs. They have done that, and to complain of the poverty of the bowlers is as irrelevant as the absence of Larwood. You can only play the current opposition, not the memories and fancies of the past. Fowler and Gattling did that brilliantly; Gattling, after the first over or two, done everything they could against the best Test batsmen. They have done it. Now it is up to the bowlers.

Three years ago, Madras at Pongaltine was the lowest point of Gattling's career. After the first over or two, done everything they could against the best Test batsmen. They have done it. Now it is up to the bowlers.

The situation as it stands on the last day is made for the imperturbable Gavaskar, who has saved so many Test matches for India over the past 15 years, but even if he has recovered from his mysterious allergy, it is hard to tell how much determination he has left. At present, no one expects him to lead India in Australia, though things here can change very quickly.

Shastri's major rival appears to be Amarnath, though he has been dropped from next week's three international — the squad was picked before his 78 here — so it is hard to see how he can suddenly become the one-day captain. If the next two days do not produce one of the great Gavaskar in-

the match 2-1 up and not 2-1 down, it could be a very different pitch — not much water in the preparation perhaps, a raging turner, men round the bat, umpires under pressure.

The umpires for Kanpur have not yet been announced, though it is known that England are reluctant to accept the two who have been nominated by the Indian board. Tony Brown, the England manager, is most anxious to keep the matter low-key as far as possible, but he is not making an unpublicised change.

Swaroop Kishen, whose reputation was so battered in Bombay, is said not to be involved, although this would be a pity, as he would be a Test before retirement. The other umpires who have particularly offended England are Messrs D. R. Dotiwallah (at the second Test), S. K. Bose (who stood with Dotiwallah during the defeat at Ahmedabad, and was really bad) and M. G. Subramanian (at the West Zone match at Rajkot).

The last two are most probably those named. If any of these ever since, Swarupp, walks out at Kanpur, England will have lost a battle. But by then, with luck, it may be impossible to lose the war.

Donlan 'too costly'

RUGBY LEAGUE

St Helens have lost interest in Steve Donlan, the 30-year-old Leigh and Great Britain centre who has been under contract since 1979. Their offer of £25,000 was rejected, and the club's secretary Geoff Sutcliffe said yesterday: "We feel this was a very good bid for a player his age. We will not be increasing it."

Leigh have also turned down Wigan's offer of £15,000 and Brian Jullif for skipper Donlan. Halifax's home game against Leeds on Sunday has been switched to Headingley, where under contract since 1979, Donlan would guarantee that the match is played. The return fixture at Headingley on April 14 will be switched to Halifax.

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Hope for French

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The 1983 Gold Cup winner Bregman, ridden by Irish jockey 'Boots' Murdes, seen here in action after racing at Leopardstown last Saturday, was most impressive in his work-out, encouraging connections to think that the ex-Michael Dickinson trained chaser is somewhere near his best after a period in the hunting field. Now trained by Michael Cullinane, Bregman could give further proof of his renewed interest in racing in the Thyrer Chase at Gowran Park, which has been postponed from today until Saturday or Monday.

David Frost

David Frost

David Frost

David Frost

Champion form pointer to Cataldi

D RACING

Harry Heymer

Weights for the William Hill Lincoln Handicap to be run over one mile at Doncaster on Saturday, March 23, were published yesterday, which does seem to bring the spring, a little nearer, although looking at the arctic conditions that have prevented the jumpers from racing, one cannot wish up much enthusiasm for flat racing in ten weeks' time.

Bookmakers, however, have formed their ante-post lists and while the National Hunt scene is at a standstill, we can spend a few hours going through the handicapper's work looking for a loophole.

The sponsors think that the Geoff Lewis trained Rana Pratap is nicely treated with 7st 12lb and they make the five-year-old their ante-post favourite at 16-1, a price he shares with Cataldi as joint favourite in the Coral odds but is out at 20-1 with Ladbrokes.

Rana Pratap was lightly raced last season, finishing second

and fourth from four outings, the last being a two length second to All Fair in a good handicap over a mile at Newbury, Lewis, on holiday in Barbados, is said to be pleased with the handicapper's work, but I would not like to take the odds for the form does not amount to much and I think he would be better suited by a longer trip.

Cataldi, on the other hand, has much better claims to being among the anti-post favourites, although once again Ladbrokes are not so keen as the others and have not given him a quote.

Cataldi has 8st 10lb, is trained by Guy Harwood and is a strong, deep-girthed son of a Wolver Hollow who won two of his eight races last season. He comes to hand early as he showed last term when third on the first day of the season to Peter Martin and Bold In-Blades are not so keen as the others and have not given him a quote.

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Prospects

The only chance of racing today had been at Gowran Park in Ireland but after a backward morning since rain poned until Saturday or Monday. Today's English meetings at Lingfield and Newton Abbot were abandoned on Tuesday and tomorrow's cards at Catterick, Kempton and Ffos-y-felin are a similar fate yesterday. There will be a 3 pm inspection today to see if Saturday's fixtures at Kempton, Catterick, Haydock and Warwick can go ahead.

The winner was French trained Pálme Musis, who beat Pebbles by a neck, with Raff another one and a half lengths away in third and Cataldi just a neck back in fourth. He was on level weight with the winner and third and was giving the filly Pebbles 3lb.

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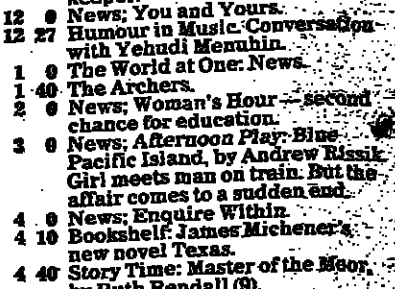
Metelski 4-8, Star of a Gunner 5-7, Simple Melody 4-7, Rivers Edge 7-7, Behind The Lines 5-8, Stracmore Nurse 6-6, Pythagorean 4-6, Qualitair Prince 6-5, Noble Mount 4-6, 4. Catcher in The Rye 5-8, Catman 4-6, Even Banker 6-6, 1. Bakers Douce 4-6, Scrummage 7-6-0, Majestic Star 8-8, 12. Merry Tom 5-10, Rose 5-5.

Lincoln weights

William Hill Lincoln Handicap (4m), 1m 2f, 2m, 3m, 4m, 5m, 6m, 7m, 8m, 9m, 10m, 11m, 12m, 13m, 14m, 15m, 16m, 17m, 18m, 19m, 20m, 21m, 22m, 23m, 24m, 25m, 26m, 27m, 28m, 29m, 30m, 31m, 32m, 33m, 34m, 35m, 36m, 37m, 38m, 39m, 40m, 41m, 42m, 43m, 44m, 45m, 46m, 47m, 48m, 49m, 50m, 51m, 52m, 53m, 54m, 55m, 56m, 57m, 58m, 59m, 60m, 61m, 62m, 63m, 64m, 65m, 66m, 67m, 68m, 69m, 70m, 71m, 72m, 73m, 74m, 75m, 76m, 77m, 78m, 79m, 80m, 81m, 82m, 83m, 84m, 85m, 86m, 87m, 88m, 89m, 90m, 91m, 92m, 93m, 94m, 95m, 96m, 97m, 98m, 99m, 100m, 101m, 102m, 103m, 104m, 105m, 106m, 107m, 108m, 109m, 110m, 111m, 112m, 113m, 114m, 115m, 116m, 117m, 118m, 119m, 120m, 121m, 122m, 123m, 124m, 125m, 126m, 127m, 128m, 129m, 130m, 131m, 132m,

6 25 Prayer for the U
6 30 Today, includin
2 25 Yesterday

- 9 0 News: Close to the sea. And
- 9 30 Monserrat talks about her island serenity.
- 9 30 The Living World. Nature Magazine.
- 10 0 News: Medicine Now.
- 10 30 Morning Story: The Curing of Mr. Brown, by Patricia Langdon Davies.
- 10 45 An Act of Worship.
- 11 0 News: Blueprints for Disease. Roots of genetic disorders.
- 11 45 Passing Trades? A village shopkeeper.



Dances (RBO/Groves)

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Nurses treating Aids 'kept in the dark'

By Seumas Milne

Nurses in NHS and private hospitals are looking after Aids sufferers without being told that the patients have the disease, the Royal College of Nursing said yesterday.

The claim, made in the latest edition of its official journal, Nursing Standard, follows yesterday's publication of Department of Health safety guidelines for medical and laboratory staff who come into contact with Aids patients.

The guidelines were drawn up by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens and specify that the clinicians in charge of Aids victims must ensure that "all staff who have direct dealings with such patients (or materials arising from them) are aware of the risk."

"Without knowing what is wrong with an Aids patient, the nurse is at risk, other staff and patients are at risk, at the patient cannot possibly receive the proper physical and psychological care they require," he added.

The RCN spokesman pointed out yesterday that under the Health and Safety at Work Act employers are required to give adequate information, instruction and supervision to employees regarding possible danger.

The RCN will not divulge the names of the nurses or the hospitals where they work, which are thought to be in the London area. Spokesmen for three main London NHS hospitals which specialise in Aids treatment, St Mary's, Chelsea and the Middlesex Hospital, all vigorously denied yesterday that any of their nursing staff had looked after an Aids patient without knowing the diagnosis.

The guidelines recommend that Aids sufferers should be treated in isolation, with the most rigorous anti-infection procedures being followed. They also suggest that a full-scale post mortem examination should not be undertaken merely to confirm the cause of death of an established Aids sufferer.

Despite the recommendation that all staff be informed of the dangers when treating Aids victims, the guidelines advise that the doctor should avoid raising the fear of Aids in the patient.

Last month the medical journal the Lancet reported that a nurse had been infected with the Aids virus while treating a patient who died from the disease. She pricked her finger on an infected needle.

Nottinghamshire union agrees to Richardson continuing as area official

Court 'exiles' ousted miners' chief

By Patrick Wintour and Keith Harper

Mr Henry Richardson, the suspended general secretary of the Nottinghamshire miners' union, said yesterday that he had in effect become a limited role as an area official.

However, he failed to win a ruling reinstating him as general secretary. Mr Richardson said after the hearing that he would work from home and that he had in effect become a limited role as an area official.

He had won a temporary court injunction on Tuesday stopping the area union from putting into effect a decision to suspend him as general secretary and area official.

At a hearing yesterday in chambers, Mr Justice Woolf refused to continue the injunction after representations from lawyers acting for the area union. But the area union did give undertakings which will allow Mr Richardson to remain an area official and to enter the area union's premises in Mansfield. He will also be allowed to attend meetings of

the area council and executive and speak and vote at their meetings.

Mr Richardson said after the 24-hour hearing that he still regarded himself as general secretary. However, Mr Paul Todd, the solicitor acting for the area union, said that Mr Justice Woolf's refusal to continue the injunction meant that Mr Richardson remained suspended as general secretary, but continued as an area official.

Mr Roy Lynk, appointed acting general secretary on Monday, would continue in the post. The area union was satisfied because the judge had refused to lift an area union decision banning Mr Richardson from dealing with correspondence.

Mr Richardson, a leftwinger out of step with the majority of Nottinghamshire miners, was initially suspended as general secretary by the area council on Saturday. Then he was stripped of all area union offices, including the post of area agent, after he had refused to assure the area



Henry Richardson — work from home

union that he would not deal with correspondence from the national union.

Mr Todd said: "There has not been any animosity against Mr Richardson. He has been a good official of the union." Mr Richardson had been told on Saturday that if he agreed not

to act as general secretary he could use his office and continue as a full-time official. The union's undertaking to the court was no more than a repeat of this offer.

Mr Richardson's role as area official in exile is likely to last a fortnight. It is expected that the Nottinghamshire union will be expelled from the national union at a special delegate conference on January 30. Mr Richardson will then set about forming a new union in the area loyal to the national union.

He said the new rightwing leadership in Nottinghamshire "had come to power saying they were constitutional men, but they have not done anything constitutional since they have been in power."

Mr Richardson claimed that the judge had said that the area union had broken the rules by suspending him but had declined to grant an injunction because of the special circumstances surrounding the case.

Mr Scargill said that the NUM had always been available for talks. On developments in Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire, he said: "My sincere plea to all miners would be that the strength of union is in the fact that it has always been one union."

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Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president yesterday spent several hours at a meeting with National Coal Board officials on welfare matters. He said later that nothing else was discussed with Mr Merrick Spanton, the board personnel manager. Mr Ian MacGregor, the NCB chairman, who should have attended the meeting, dropped out to save an embarrassing confrontation.

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Councils united in request for rate-cap talks

By John Carvel

Local Government Correspondent

Leaders of the rate-capped Labour councils yesterday agreed on a swift move to open negotiations with the Government, after a six-months boycott on talks.

They will write to Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary over the next few days seeking a collective meeting to discuss the whole field of rate-capping, spending targets, penalties, and the removal of £9 billion of rate support grant since 1979.

Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield and a member of the Labour Party national executive, said the initiative should not be interpreted as a sign of weakness and that the councils are united in their stand of non-compliance with the Government's drive for spending cuts.

The councils have agreed that some should approach the Department of the Environment asking for an individual deal to ease its rate-capping limit. They will also press ahead with plans to synchronise their budget meetings on March 7, when they say they will pass resolutions refusing to make a rate within the Government's limits.

The decision to ask the Government for collective talks was made at a meeting of the Local Government Campaign Unit, the body formed by councils which see themselves as being in the front line of the battle over Government cuts.

It was attended by Labour group leaders of 17 rate-capped councils and 11 other authorities including Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, North Tyneside, Sedgefield and Easington, which are being hit this year by grant penalties and fear they may be candidates for rate-capping next time.

The meeting agreed the line put forward by Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield, that collective talks should begin quickly. This triumphed over the arguments of some other leaders that the Government should be left to sweat for a while and that no negotiations should begin before the budget meetings on March 7.

It was agreed that the collective delegation should include not only the rate-capped councils but also others which are exposed to heavy grant penalties.

Mr Blunkett said: "Our authorities and the trade unions are totally united behind the stand taken of non-compliance. Today we made it clear that, whatever the Government says, we are not going to be divided."

"No authority will try to get itself off the hook by accepting deals from the Government individually."

The councils would demand of Mr Jenkin that he removed the penalty and target system and restored the councils' lost grant to make up the difference between their income from central and local sources and reasonable demands to meet local needs.

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Miloudi El Majdoui (right), the 13-year-old boy found wandering alone at Heathrow Airport last week, is reunited with his mother and younger brother at the Moroccan embassy in London yesterday.

Sultan buys the Dorchester

By Geoffrey Gibbs

THE Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane, London, has changed hands for the second time in less than a year. The price paid by the Sultan of Brunei was more than £40 million.

The new owner of the 280-room freehold hotel is one of the world's richest men. The Sultan's tiny oil-rich country gained independence from Britain last year.

The Sultan is determined to transform the Dorchester into one of the most luxurious hotels in the world. He has pledged to spend £20

million on refurbishment over the next three years in addition to the extensive work already taking place.

The Sultan, who maintains a suite at the hotel, has bought the property from a Hong Kong-based hotel group, Regent International, which acquired the Dorchester from a Middle East concern for £24 million last July.

Regent International will continue to manage the hotel.

"He made a very good offer and one they could not refuse," a spokesman for Regent in London

commented last night. Regent intended to keep the Dorchester. It was not a speculative exercise.

The executive vice-president of Regent, Mr George Raffel, said yesterday that there would be no staff changes or redundancies. The Dorchester employs around 600 people.

The hotel was built by Sir Malcolm McAlpine in 1930 and remained in the McAlpine family until 1976. Room charges range from £85 a night for a single room to £1,000 for the most expensive suite.

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Lewin not told that sub spotted Belgrano

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Information about the sighting of the Argentine cruiser, the General Belgrano, was not known to Lord Lewin, as chief of defence staff, the war cabinet's most senior military adviser, the Prime Minister disclosed yesterday.

Writing to Mr George Foulkes MP, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, Mrs Thatcher says that the submarine hunter's signal about sighting the Belgrano reached Northwood naval headquarters on the afternoon of May 1, 1982.

Lord Lewin, who kept ministers in touch with military developments, was not informed of the signal until May 2. It had not been possible to establish why he was not told sooner, said Mrs Thatcher.

Northwood did immediately inform senior Defence Ministry staff, but "Lord Lewis himself had no knowledge of this," she wrote in memory, he said. Speaking from memory, he said: "The signal was received around midnight, she says."

Lord Lewin told the committee that he regarded himself as "the only link between the war cabinet and Northwood, through the Ministry of Defence."

He suggested that the "mainstream committee" whose job was to brief ministers, was not informed because the signal arrived too late.

The decision to attack the Belgrano was made at a 20-minute meeting at Chequers on May 2 and was not about 3 pm the same day while heading away from the task force.

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Brighton bomb police cleared of lapse

By Colin Brown

Political Staff

An independent inquiry into the Brighton bombing has largely cleared the police of any security lapse, the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, is to tell the Commons next week.

Mr Brittan will be unable to publish the entire inquiry report because of the security implications, but it is understood that it does not attach blame to the Sussex police for the arrangements they made for protecting the Cabinet and the conference representatives.

The inquiry was chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable of Hampshire, Mr. John Hodgson, at the request of the Home Secretary, Mr. Leon Brittan, who was in the room when the IRA bombing on October 5, killed five, including Mrs. Thatcher's